

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

Whinmoor St Paul's (VA) C of E Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Every Child is a Unique Child of God

At Whinmoor St. Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, everything we do is underpinned at all times by the Christian ethos of valuing the individual. We believe that every child is respected as a unique child of God, the future adults in society. We believe children are gifts from God and we are privileged to work with their families and carers, to enable them to live life to the full.

Agreed: July 2020

Review Date: July 2023

Signed: Chair of Governors: Mrs R Davies

Date: 15 July 2020

The Governing Body and staff of Whinmoor St Paul's Primary School take as our first priority the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure rigorous arrangements are in place within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.

Our Mission and Ethos

At Whinmoor St Paul's Primary school we believe that every child is a unique child of God and lives in a world that God has made.

We aim:

- ***To provide a safe nurturing environment where every child can achieve his/her full potential***
- ***To inspire a lifelong love of learning***
- ***To value all faiths and cultures and to celebrate diversity***
- ***To develop a sense of respect and responsibility towards self, others and the world in which we live***
- ***To build strong relationships with the local community, our city and the wider world***

And to do all this as a caring community based on strong Christian values

BULLYING: OUR SCHOOL'S VALUES AND BELIEFS

We are a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and in an attempt to encapsulate the ethos, spirit and aims of our school we have agreed the following 'Statement of Intent':

The school will provide a secure, caring, Christian community where everyone can learn their own self-worth in an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect and co-operation.

We intend the school to be a happy and enjoyable place to learn, which will provide the opportunity for every child and adult to fulfil their potential in an attractive, well-resourced and stimulating environment.

We will encourage children to become confident, independent learners who are able to contribute positively to the school and the wider community in which they live so they can take their full place in society secure as individuals, whilst able to respect the needs and values of others.

In line with this statement:

- All bullying, of any sort, is therefore unacceptable.
- Pupils who experience bullying will be supported.
- We recognise the effects that bullying can have on pupils' feelings of worth and on their school work, and the school community will actively promote an anti-bullying environment.

OUR INTENTIONS IN PRODUCING THIS POLICY ARE:

- To express our belief that all pupils should be included fully in the life of the school.

- To provide a learning environment free from any threat or fear, which is conducive to the achievement of individual aspirations.
- To reduce and to eradicate, wherever possible, instances in which pupils are made to feel frightened, excluded or unhappy.
- To reduce and to eradicate, wherever possible, instances in which pupils are subject to any form of bullying.
- To respond effectively to all instances of bullying that are reported to us.
- To establish a means of dealing with bullying, and of providing support to pupils who have been bullied.
- To provide support for pupils who are accused of bullying, who may be experiencing problems of their own.
- To ensure that all pupils and staff are aware of the policy and that they fulfil their obligations to it.
- To meet any legal obligations which rest with the school.

OUR DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Bullying involves dominance of one person by another, or a group of others, is pre-meditated and usually forms a pattern of behaviour.

Bullying is therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult for victims to defend themselves against.

It can take many forms:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking another's belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Psychological – spreading unkind rumours, inciting others to be cruel or encouraging others to overtly isolate and ignore the individual, sending malicious messages through the use of social media (sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones/social networking sites).

Racial harassment, homophobia or other contraventions of the Equality Act are treated as very serious incidents of bullying and may be reported as a Hate crime. Some forms of bullying are attacks not only on the individual, but also on the group to which he or she may belong. Within school we will pay particular attention to:

- Racial harassment and racist bullying
- Sexual bullying
- The use of homophobic language
- Peer to peer bullying
- Gender bullying (LGBT)
- Bullying of pupils who have special educational needs or disabilities.
- Cyber bullying

CREATING AN ANTI-BULLYING CLIMATE IN SCHOOL

Our school's Behaviour Policy explains how we promote positive behaviour in school to create an environment where pupils behave well; where pupils take responsibility for each other's emotional and social well-being; and where they include and support each other.

We also draw on the school's PSHE curriculum (Leeds Scheme of Work) and our work on British Values to promote appropriate behaviour through direct teaching, and by creating an emotionally and socially safe environment where these skills are learned and practised. Our aim is to create a climate where bullying is not accepted by anyone within the school community.

OUR CURRICULUM IS USED TO:

- Raise awareness about bullying and our anti-bullying policy
- Increase understanding for victims and help build an anti-bullying ethos
- Know what to do if they or anyone they know is being bullied
- Teach pupils how constructively to manage their relationships with others
- Promote equality and good community relations and avoiding discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic circumstances.

We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Inclusive PSHE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice and bullying, including homophobia, and promote understanding and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

(See PSHE and Equality and Diversity Policies – Responding to homophobic, bi-phobic, transphobic and other prejudiced language and behaviour for further information).

- Circle Time, assemblies, role- plays and stories are used to show what pupils can do to prevent bullying, and to create an anti-bullying climate in school.
- Bullying will not be tolerated and we make this clear in the information we give to pupils and parents when they join our school.
- We will publish our anti-bullying policy on the school web-site.
- Posters around school will tell pupils what to do if they are bullied, or see others being bullied, and about Childline and other sources of confidential help.
- Our School Council offers a forum in which concerns about bullying can be discussed on a regular basis.
- We will provide guidance for parents if they suspect their child is being bullied at school.
- We will ask pupils whether they feel safe in school and we will supervise, and try to eliminate any unsafe areas which they report to us.
- We will provide regular training/reminders for teachers and non-teaching staff on spotting the signs of bullying and how to respond to it.

STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING

In dealing with incidents of bullying we will use a range of strategies, selecting those appropriate to the circumstances from the following list:

- Cooperative group work throughout the school ~ To encourage children to work together, be tolerant of others' ideas, trust others and be more willing to listen.
- Circle time ~ To set time aside for pupils to take part in enjoyable games, activities and discussion in a safe environment where all opinions are valued.
- Circle of friends ~ To build relationships around a vulnerable pupil with the pupil's and parent's agreement to offer support and friendship.
- Befriending ~ To appoint a specific pupil(s) as a support / friend [appointed by a member of staff]
- School Council ~ To allow pupils to improve their environment by taking responsibility for their behaviour and actions.

- Support group ~ To involve the bullied pupil, those involved in the bullying and bystanders to form a group to support the bullied pupil. Responsibility for change lies with those involved in the bullying.
- Mediation by adults ~ To establish ground rules that will enable the bully and the person being bullied to co-exist in school.

RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS WHEN THEY OCCUR

Pupils who have been bullied should report this to:

- Any member of staff (Teachers, Teaching Assistants or the Pastoral Lead)
- Any member of the school council
- Their parents
- A school friend

Pupils who see others being bullied should report this to:

- Any of the above

Members of staff who receive reports that a pupil has been bullied should report this to

- A member of the senior leadership team or the Pastoral Lead

Reports of bullying will be logged by:

- The class teacher or member of the senior leadership team on to CPOMS

The PSHE Leader must be informed and a report of bullying should be recorded for future reference (for example, who was involved, type of bullying i.e. verbal or physical, action taken – this could be very useful if bullying by same person(s) took place in another year group. It will allow the PSHE Leader to know where further intervention at a whole school, class or individual level is needed)

Where bullying is of a racist nature, we will report this to the Local Education Authority using the Racial Incident Report Form.

Where bullying is of a sexist or homophobic nature, we will record this in CPOMS under specific agreed categories, including action taken by staff, and where necessary, support staff to plan and deliver lessons aimed at helping pupils understand that discriminatory bullying behaviour and remarks are hurtful and unacceptable.

All reports will be taken seriously and will be followed up by the class teacher or member of the SLT.

SUPPORT

Work with children who have been bullied could involve some or all of the following:

- They will be reassured that they do not deserve to be bullied and this is not their fault.
- We will assure them that it was right to report the incident.
- We will encourage them to talk about how they feel.
- We will try to ascertain the extent of the problem.
- We will engage them in making choices about how the matter may be resolved.
- We will try to ensure that they feel safe.
- We will discuss strategies for being safe and staying safe.
- We will ask them to report immediately any further incidents to us.
- We will affirm that bullying can be stopped and that our school will persist with intervention until it does.
- We will involve their friends / older pupils in peer support / the buddy system/ mediation.

We may then adopt strategies from the following list as appropriate:

- We will interview the pupil (or pupils) involved in bullying separately.
- We will listen to their version of events.
- We will talk to anyone else who may have witnessed the bullying.
- We will reinforce the message that bullying is not acceptable, and that we expect bullying to stop.
- We will seek a commitment to this end.
- We will affirm that it is right for pupils to let us know when they are being bullied.
- We will adopt a joint problem solving approach where this is appropriate, and ask the pupils involved to help us find solutions to the problem. This will encourage pupils involved to take responsibility for the emotional and social needs of others.
- We will consider sanctions under our school's Behaviour Policy.
- We will advise pupils responsible for bullying that we will be checking to ensure that bullying stops.
- We will ensure that those involved know that we have done so.
- When bullying occurs, we will contact the parents of the pupils involved at an early stage.
- We will keep records of incidents that we become aware of and how we responded to them.
- We will follow up after incidents to check that the bullying has not started again.
- We will also work with pupils who have been involved in bullying others to ascertain the sort of support that they themselves need.

There is a tendency, often quite a natural one, to want to investigate an incident and "get to the bottom of it." Sometimes this will be entirely appropriate. There will be other occasions where an extended investigation is actually unhelpful and where a problem solving approach will be the most effective response.

Our policy will be to use our discretion to respond flexibly and in an appropriate way to each incident.

WHEN TOUGHER MEASURES ARE NEEDED

If necessary, we will invoke the following range of sanctions that are in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. These include:

- Removal from the group (within the class setting)
- Withdrawal of break and lunchtime privileges
- Withholding participation in school events that are not an essential part of the curriculum.
- In extreme cases we will also consider fixed term and / or permanent exclusion from school.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Everyone within school is expected to:

- Act in a respectful and supportive way towards one another, and
- Adhere to and to promote the objectives of this policy.

Pupils are expected to:

- Report all incidents of bullying and suspected incidents that victims may be afraid to report.
- Support each other and to seek help to ensure that everyone feels safe and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school.

Parents can help by:

- Supporting our anti-bullying policy and procedures.
- Encouraging their children to be positive members of the school community.

- Discussing with their child's teacher any concerns that their child may be experiencing bullying or if they are unhappy in some other way.
- Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside of school.

CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS

We recognise that there may be times when parents feel that we have not dealt well with an incident of bullying and we would ask that this be brought to the Headteacher's notice. If the Headteacher cannot resolve these concerns informally, parents can raise their concerns more formally through the school's Complaints Procedure a copy of which may be obtained from the school office.

We would also be pleased to receive Compliments – feedback from parents when things have gone well.

EVALUATING OUR POLICY

We will evaluate our anti-bullying policy using the following measures:

- The numbers of incidents that are reported to staff over a given period.
- Pupils' perceptions of bullying in school through structured discussions in class time.
- We will investigate patterns of absence to ensure that children are not taking unnecessary days off school due to fear of being bullied.
- The number of complaints and compliments that we receive from parents.
- From the comments made by visitors and other people connected with the school.

OWNERSHIP OF THIS POLICY

This policy was agreed by members of the school council, staff and governors of the school.

The policy applies to all staff and to all pupils, whether temporarily or permanently on the school roll.

It is linked to other school policies including:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality and Diversity
- PSHE
- Behaviour
- Teaching and Learning
- E Safety and Computing

The Headteacher is responsible for introducing and implementing this policy. However all staff, all pupils and their parents have an active part to play in the development and maintenance of the policy, and in its success.

One of our Governors will take a special interest in bullying within school.

Governors will be given regular information on bullying within school, and a report on the operation of this policy from a named governor.

We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Inclusive PSHE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice, including homophobia, and promote understanding and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

