



BLETCHINGLEY VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aiming high • Working together • Achieving our best

Anti-Bullying Policy

Summary

The policy has been written having consulted with our whole school community

We take all forms of bullying seriously and are fully mindful of the implications for individuals if it is not addressed

Generally, we use a specific definition of bullying behaviour, which is STOP – Several Times On Purpose

Only this behaviour will be recorded as bullying, but all unacceptable behaviour will be addressed using our Behaviour for Learning Policy

The Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator is the Headteacher, Mrs. Denise Coady

We try to prevent bullying behaviour using a wide range of strategies

Introduction

At Bletchingley Village Primary School, in line with the principles of the 'Every Child Matters' strategy, we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all our pupils to allow them to learn effectively, improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential.

We aim to provide an environment in which pupils feel safe in school, understand issues relating to personal safety, including bullying, and feel confident to seek support from adults in school should they feel unsafe.

Policy Development

This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from:

Members of staff, governors, parents/carers, children; and other partners such as the Local Education Officer and the Behaviour Support Team. The policy, the school's restorative approach and the regular follow-up and signing off of incidents were seen as particularly good practice during a safeguarding and behaviour audit carried out by the Local Authority as commissioned by the school.

Pupils contribute to the development of the policy through the school council, circle time discussions, assemblies and special events and assemblies. They have created their own Anti-Bullying Policy, displayed as a PowerPoint on our website and as posters around our school.

The school community have developed a set of core values which are displayed around the school, and have a simple, shared form of words which encapsulates our approach to bullying, as set out in our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to contribute by taking part in written consultations, parent meetings, parent focus groups as appropriate, and the outcomes are reflected in the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

The Anti –bullying Coordinator in our school is the head teacher Mrs. Denise Coady.

She has responsibility for:

- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant local agencies
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review

- Managing bullying incidents
- Managing the reporting and recording of bullying incidents
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Coordinating strategies for preventing bullying behaviour

Definition of Bullying

There is no legal definition of bullying.

However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation It takes many forms and can include:
- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

<https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school/bullying-a-definition>

How does bullying differ from teasing/falling out between friends or other types of aggressive behaviour?

- There is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate.
- There is a power imbalance that makes it hard for the subject to defend themselves.
- It is usually persistent.

Occasionally an incident may be deemed to be bullying even if the behaviour has not been repeated or persistent – if it fulfils all other descriptions of bullying. This possibility should be considered, particularly in cases of sexual, sexist, racist or homophobic bullying and when children with disabilities are involved. If the subject might be in danger then intervention is put into place immediately.

Language:

Bullying can be seen as a dysfunctional relationship between individuals or groups of people. The language used is important. We avoid the use of the word “victim” as it can be disempowering; rather, we refer to a subject or target, and help them to feel that they can be a key part of the solution. Equally, we avoid the term “perpetrator” as this can demonise the person bullying and exacerbate the problem.

We encourage pupils, parents and staff to use the word “bullying” judiciously: behaviour needs to meet our criteria in order to be designated bullying.

We teach children the **STOP** acronyms: Bullying is Several Times On Purpose. We need to Start Telling Other People in order to make sure bullying does not happen in our school.

What does bullying look like?

Bullying can include:

- Name calling

- Taunting
- Mocking
- Making offensive comments
- Physical assault
- Taking or damaging belongings
- Cyber bullying - inappropriate text messaging and e mailing; sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet (for further details, please refer to the most recent Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.)
- Producing offensive graffiti
- Gossiping and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- Excluding people from groups and activities.

Although bullying can occur between individuals it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the 'bystanders' or 'accessories'.

Why are children and young people bullied?

Specific types of bullying include:

- bullying related to race, religion or culture
- bullying related to special educational needs or disabilities
- bullying related to appearance or health
- bullying relating to sexual orientation
- bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances □ sexist or sexual bullying

There is no hierarchy of bullying – all forms are taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Bullying can take place between:

- children
- children and staff
- between staff
- individuals or groups
- Any members of the school community, including parents and visitors

Reporting and Responding to Bullying

Our school has clear and well publicised systems to support the whole school community (including staff, parents/carers, children and any other persons who may be affected), in the reporting of bullying. This includes those who are the subjects of bullying or have witnessed bullying behaviour (bystanders)

- Children in school know that they must always tell an adult
- Parents/carers should talk to the class teacher in the first instance
- All staff and visitors should report concerns to a member of the Child Protection Team

- Bystanders must always report what they have seen, as above.

Procedures

All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated fully, involving all those involved.

- All those involved are interviewed or complete a proforma
- Parents are informed and involved in the resolution
- The response aims to achieve a long-term resolution to the situation: it will be solution focused, taking a restorative approach, and may include strategies such as circle of friends, individual work with those involved, and a referral to outside agencies if appropriate; contracts agreed between the pupils.
- Sanctions will always be in line with those described in the Behaviour Policy. Serious cases of persistent bullying which is not resolved by the strategies outlined above may need to be addressed by exclusion.
- Incidents are recorded and followed up, and the person managing the situation will maintain regular contact with all those involved and, if they are not the Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, they will keep the ABC informed.
- Support is given to the subject and the bully and anyone else who needs it.

Recording Bullying Incidents

Bullying incidents are initially recorded by the member of staff who is dealing with the incident and this record will be stored by the Anti-bullying coordinator.

The school has developed a recording format specifically for the ongoing monitoring of bullying.

The information stored is used to ensure individual incidents are appropriately followed up. It is also used to identify trends and inform preventative work in school and the development of the school's policy.

This information is collated and presented without individual names to the governors as part of an annual report.

Strategies for Preventing Bullying

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and welfare of our pupils we have developed the following strategies to promote positive behaviour and discourage bullying behaviour.

These include:

- Embedded values.
- Involvement in Healthy Schools and Enhanced Healthy Schools.
- Regular assemblies promoting respect and tolerance, including specific work on bystanding.
- PSHE/citizenship education.
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as Cyberbullying and internet safety
- Pupil voice through the School Council and Playground Friends
- Involving parents/carers
- Playground Buddying
- Parent information events/information
- Staff training and development for all staff
- Restorative Justice
- Learning Mentoring

- Mediation through the Local Education Office

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body: agree, monitor, evaluate and update the policy as agreed at the September FGB meeting, or at other appropriate times e.g. in response to a specific incident. The chair of Governors holds the responsibility for Anti-bullying (Behaviour) within the governing body.

The Head Teacher: take overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaise with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies and acting as the Anti-bullying coordinator who has general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy; to work closely with the ABC if this is not the head teacher.

All other staff: be familiar with the policy and follow it; to make and keep accurate records; to liaise as appropriate with the ABC and/or head teacher; to promote the use of restorative approaches; to ensure that all pupils in their class or that they work with have an adult to whom they can turn if they are worried; to establish a safe and supportive ethos within their class or group and to address friendship issues promptly and in a proactive way.

Evaluating the Policy

The policy will be reviewed and updated regularly by the Governing Body. The policy review may be linked to the School Development Plan, or to local or national guidance or legislation, to support the school in further development its inclusive ethos. It will also be reviewed and updated in line with changes to technology e.g. wider use of mobile phones by younger children.

Links with other policies

Behaviour and for Learning Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Acceptable Use Policy - Cyberbullying and internet safety

Equalities Policy – including Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, SEN and Disability

PSHE and Citizenship Policy

Confidentiality Policy

Online Safety Policy

References Documents and Related Policy/Guidance National

Documents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>



BLETCHINGLEY VILLAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aiming high • Working together • Achieving our best

Appendix 1: Bullying Report

Date	Child affected	Reported by
Name of key adult involved:		
Children involved:		
What is happening		
Actions/strategies implemented		
Parental involvement		
Follow-up (should be two or three entries)		
Date resolved (at least one term after initial date)		
Comments from children/parents involved		
Signature of ABC		