

Healey Primary School



Anti-bullying Policy

Definition

Bullying can be described as

"Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally."

It is important to note that bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological; including the misuse of Information Communications Technology (ICT)

Through the ethos of our school, our responses to each other (children and staff), assemblies, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), we continually strive to develop:

- **A celebration and acceptance of difference**
- **An understanding of the difference between right and wrong**
- **Respect for persons, truth and property**
- **A concern for how our actions may affect other**
- **Good relationships throughout the whole school community**
- **Pupils who take responsibility and initiative**

Through our Equal Opportunities policy and its implementation we will ensure that all pupils and staff, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, mental health and social circumstances are given the same basic rights of freedom from all forms of harassment.

We take a firm stance against any bullying of a racist, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic nature.

It is a basic entitlement of all children that they receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. We recognise that children with SEN may be more vulnerable to bullying.

Victims of bullying can suffer physical and psychological abuse, isolation, loneliness, insecurity and anxiety, e.g. name-calling, teasing, intimidation, extortion and cyber-bullying.

We seek to ensure that the victims of bullying are confident of support and redress, whilst perpetrators are helped and advised about the error of their ways. It is a two way process. We will try everything to ensure that individual incidents of bullying are stopped.

School Approach to Bullying

One of our over-arching principles is to keep everyone safe and all children are aware of this. School recognises the impact of peer on peer abuse and will always take this seriously and never trivialise incidents.

When bullying is brought to our attention there are a range of sanctions school will use. They form a systematic approach and depend on the perceived seriousness and number of occurrences of unwanted behaviour.

We will

- Make everyone aware that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility
- Prevent, challenge and respond to bullying wherever it occurs
- Support and reassure. ***Bullying is NOT somebody else's problem***
- Put sanctions and strategies in place to address behaviour issues e.g. Full Stop box.
- Refer to appropriate staff e.g. specialist support staff, class teacher, Discuss with parents and children when appropriate
- Withdraw pupils from extra-curricular activities, if relevant to the incident
- Consider fixed term exclusion from school during lunchtimes
- Consider fixed term exclusion from school in extreme circumstances
- Use of the lunch time club to support pupils not managing playtimes and provide them with structured social situation
- Raise awareness of the nature and impact of bullying

- Promote a consistent and coherent approach
- Support and protect children who are being bullied and continue to protect them throughout their time in school.
- Help bullies change their behaviour.
- Take bullying seriously and find out the incident by:
 - Meeting with the individuals concerned
 - Breaking up bullying groups
 - Helping children develop positive strategies towards bullying issues
 - Involving parents
 - Discuss with and involve children in, agreed class and school rules.
- Record incidents of bullying in a consistent way that allows for monitoring of behaviour – record specifically incidents of racism and homophobia
- Make use of Peer Support Programmes (Playground Pals) to encourage co-operative play to diffuse minor disputes
- Encourage children to speak with members of the School Council or a member of staff
- Be aware of bullying incidents outside of school which affect the pupil in school
- Include follow up checks with the child to ensure incidents have stopped.

As a school we strive to ensure **parents are well informed** and that the alleged incidents are thoroughly investigated and that home feedback given. We promote purposeful relationships with other schools and support agencies to support both bully and victim.

Where bullying is reported outside the school premises, the headteacher will, if appropriate, report it to the local Police Community Support Officer to take action. Where such incidents can be managed through school sanctions, the school will do everything it can to regulate the conduct of its pupils both on and off the premises.

All people working with children should:

- **Familiarise themselves with this policy**
- **Work to promote the ethos and principles of the anti-bullying**

Roles of Responsibility

Governors:

Agree the anti-bullying policy. When necessary become involved in responding to incidents of bullying.

Headteacher:

Contributes to the formulation of, and implements the anti-bullying policy.

Deals with incidents of bullying when brought to her attention.

Liaises with governors, staff, parents and children.

Ensures staff have regular updated training, as and when such training is available

Promotes anti-bullying through assemblies.

All Staff, including support staff, lunchtime Supervisors and School Council/Task group:

Implement anti-bullying policy.

Support the Peer Support Programme – PLAYGROUND PALS.

Provide regular activities through PSHE to promote awareness, appropriate behaviour and an atmosphere where children feel they can discuss their problems.

Deal with incidents of bullying in a fair, consistent manner.

Where necessary inform Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Record details of serious incidents – records kept in Headteacher's room.

NB:- Records have to be kept for at least 5 years.

Any complaints should be made through the ***School's Complaint Procedure***.

APPENDED

Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for School Leaders, Staff and Governing Bodies.

PREVENTING AND TACKLING BULLYING Advice for School Leaders, staff and Governing Bodies

Preventing and Tackling Bullying

Advice for Head Teachers, Staff and Governing Bodies

About this Advice

This document has been produced to help schools prevent and respond to bullying as part of their overall behaviour policy, to understand their legal responsibilities in this area, and to understand the Department's approach.

Who is this Advice for?

Some of this advice is primarily aimed at:

- school staff, head teachers and governors in schools, 6th forms and colleges including Academies, Free schools, Pupil Referral Units and alternative providers.
- This guidance also applies to independent schools, but their statutory obligations are different as noted in relevant sections.

It may also be useful for:

- FE and community settings.

What's changed?

This document replaces previous advice – Safe To Learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools. It outlines, in one place, the Government's approach to bullying, legal obligations and the powers schools have to tackle bullying, and the principles which underpin the most effective anti-bullying strategies in schools. It also lists further resources through which school staff can access specialist information on the specific issues that they face.

What does the law say and what do I have to do?

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

There are a number of statutory obligations on schools with regard to behaviour which establish clear responsibilities to respond to bullying. In particular section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

- provides that every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and **prevent all forms of bullying** amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents;

- gives head teachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.
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1

The legislation outlined above does not apply to independent schools.

The Equality Act 2010

The new Equality Act 2010 replaces previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. A key provision is a new public sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5 April 2011. It replaces the three previous public sector equality duties for race, disability and gender, and also covers age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Duty has three aims. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Schools are now required to comply with the new Equality Duty.

The Act also makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, provision of pupil access to any benefit, facility or service, or by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment. In England and Wales the Act applies to all maintained and independent schools, including Academies and Free Schools, and maintained and non-maintained special schools.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child doing the bullying.

Criminal Law

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communications – could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986. If school staff feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police. For example, under the Malicious Communication Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender.

2

Bullying Outside School Premises

Head teachers have a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives head teachers the power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff (*this legislation does not apply to independent schools*). This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The head teacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the actions taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case.

Cyber-Bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen 24/7, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click. For more information on how to respond to cyber-bullying and how pupils can keep themselves safe, please refer to the Childnet International and Beatbullying links under 'further resources'.

Dealing with Bullying

Successful schools have clear policies in place to deal with bullying and poor behaviour which are clear to parents, pupils and staff so that, when incidents do occur, they are dealt with quickly. However a school chooses to define bullying for the purposes of its own behaviour policy, it should be clearly communicated and understood by pupils, parents, and staff. Successful schools create an environment that prevents bullying from being a serious problem in the first place.

3

School staff, leaders and governors are best placed to decide how best to respond to the particular issues that affect their pupils. There is no single solution to bullying which will suit all schools.

Prevention

A school's response to bullying should not start at the point at which a child has been bullied. The best schools develop a more sophisticated approach in which school staff proactively gather intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and develop strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. This might involve talking to pupils about issues of difference, perhaps in lessons, through dedicated events or projects, or through assemblies. Staff themselves will be able to determine what will work best for their pupils, depending on the particular issues they need to address.

Schools which excel at tackling bullying have created an ethos of good behaviour where pupils treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. Values of respect for staff and other pupils, an understanding of the value of education, and a clear understanding of how our actions affect others permeate the whole school environment and are reinforced by staff and older pupils who set a good example to the rest.

Intervention

Schools should apply disciplinary measures to pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong. Disciplinary measures must be applied fairly, consistently, and reasonably taking account of any special educational needs or disabilities that the pupils may have and taking into account the needs of vulnerable pupils. It is also important to consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves.

The organisations listed in the 'further resources' section provide a range of practical resources for schools to help staff develop their own approaches to different issues which might motivate bullying and conflict.

Successful schools also:

- **involve parents** to ensure that they are clear that the school does not tolerate bullying and are aware of the procedures to follow if they believe that their child is being bullied. Parents feel confident that the school will take any complaint about bullying seriously and resolve the issue in a way that protects the child, and they reinforce the value of good behaviour at home;
- **involve pupils.** All pupils understand the schools' approach and are clear about the part they can play to prevent bullying, including when they find themselves as bystanders;
- **regularly evaluate** and update their approach to take account of developments in technology, for instance updating 'acceptable use' policies for computers;
- **implement disciplinary sanctions.** The consequences of bullying reflect the seriousness of the incident so that others see that bullying is unacceptable;
- **openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying,** such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality. Also children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities. Schools can also teach children that using any prejudice based language is unacceptable;
- **use specific organisations or resources for help with particular problems.** Schools can draw on the experience and expertise of anti-

bullying organisations with a proven track record and / or specialised expertise in dealing with certain forms of bullying;

- **provide effective staff training.** Anti-bullying policies are most effective when all school staff understand the principles and purpose of the school's policy, its legal responsibilities regarding bullying, how to resolve problems, and where to seek support. Schools can invest in specialised skills to help their staff understand the needs of their pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or disability (SEND) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB&T) pupils;
- **work with the wider community** such as the police and children's services where bullying is particularly serious or persistent and where a criminal offence may have been committed. Successful schools also work with other agencies and the wider community to tackle bullying that is happening outside school;
- **make it easy for pupils to report bullying** so that they are assured that they will be listened to and incidents acted on. Pupils should feel that they can report bullying which may have occurred outside school including cyberbullying;
- **create an inclusive environment.** Schools should create a safe environment where pupils can openly discuss the cause of their bullying, without fear of further bullying or discrimination;
- **celebrate success.** Celebrating success is an important way of creating a positive school ethos around the issue.

Schools' Accountability

Pupils will learn best in a safe and calm environment that is free from disruption and in which education is the primary focus.

In 2012, the new Ofsted framework will come into force and will include 'behaviour and safety' as one of its key criteria for inspections. Schools should be able to demonstrate the impact of anti-bullying policies.

5

Frequently Asked Questions

Should we prioritise tackling some types of bullying over others?

Immediate physical safety obviously comes first. All bullying, whatever the motivation or method, is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Some issues will be more familiar to schools than others and this guidance points to other specialist organisations for further information about how to tackle specific types of bullying. Please see 'Further Sources of Information' at the end of this document.

Should I discipline pupils for bullying outside the school?

Yes. If an incident of bullying outside the school premises is reported to the school, it is important that it is investigated and appropriate action is taken. This will send a strong signal to pupils that bullying will not be tolerated and perpetrators will be held to account.

How do schools with a religious character – or schools dealing with parents with particular religious beliefs – respond to prejudice based bullying?

Notwithstanding the particular tenets of their faith, schools with a religious character should uphold the values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others and condemn all forms of bullying, as in any other school.

How can we involve parents more in our anti-bullying work?

Schools should talk to parents about their anti-bullying policy and make it available to them and prospective parents as part of their behaviour policy. Schools should ensure that parents know what measures are being taken to prevent bullying, as well as how incidents are responded to, and may also encourage positive messages about good behaviour and respect for others at home.

Should I record incidents of bullying?

Staff should develop a consistent approach to monitoring bullying incidents in their school and evaluating whether their approach is effective. For some schools, that will mean recording incidents so that they can monitor incident numbers and identify where bullying is recurring between the same pupils. Others do not want to keep written records. We want schools to exercise their own judgment as to what will work best for their pupils.

