
OVERSTONE PARK SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy



SEPTEMBER 2023
OVERSTONE PARK SCHOOL
Overstone Park, Northampton, NN6 0DT

Anti-Bullying

Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2023	September 2024	Mrs M Brown Miss K Varty Mrs D York

We believe this policy relates to the following legislation:

- Children Act 1989
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Action on Bullying (Estyn 2014)
- Bullying: Effective Action in Secondary Schools (Ofsted)
- Cyberbullying: Supporting School Staff (DCSF)
- No Place for Bullying (Ofsted 2012)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying - Advice for School Leaders, and Staff (DfE)
- Safe from Bullying: Guidance for Local Authorities and Other Strategic Leaders on Reducing Bullying in the Community (DCSF)

We acknowledge the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that clearly states that all maintained schools must have in place an Anti-Bullying Policy that outlines procedures in order to prevent bullying among pupils.

We have a duty of care to protect pupils from bullying as part of our responsibility to provide a safe, secure, caring and friendly school environment for all the children in order to protect them from those who wish to deliberately hurt them either physically or emotionally. We believe all our safeguarding procedures are in line with Sections 3(5) and 87(1) of the Children Act 1989 and Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and that we promote the welfare of all children in our care.

'There are many definitions of bullying, but most consider it to be:

- deliberately hurtful (including aggression);
 - repeated often over a period of time, while recognising that even a one-off incident can leave a learner traumatised and nervous of future recurrence; and
 - difficult for victims to defend themselves against.
- (Respecting Others: Anti-Bullying Overview (Welsh Government 2011))

We believe bullying takes many forms such as physical, verbal, social exclusion and the misuse of mobile phones and Internet social networking websites. It is our duty to look out for all signs of bullying and to take the appropriate action to stop it. We will deal with all incidents of alleged bullying.

We believe it is our moral and legal duty to protect transgender pupils and school personnel from all forms of transphobic bullying and to educate all pupils about the important role that transgender people play in society. All forms of homophobic and transphobic bullying must be challenged, dealt with and recorded.

We believe by creating a safe, secure and caring school environment we will encourage all pupils to report any incident of bullying to a member of the school personnel.

Under no circumstances will we tolerate any form of bullying and all incidents of bullying will be dealt with promptly and effectively as we wish to promote the wellbeing of all pupils.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

We are aware that bullying can cause anxiety, depression, hyperactivity and behavioural problems but the results from recent research show that anxiety and depression caused by childhood bullying decreases over a period of time. Bullying does cause suffering but the impact on mental health decreases over time, so that children are able to recover in the medium term. Research results also show the potential for resilience in children exposed to bullying.

We work hard to prevent bullying from happening and to support children who have been bullied by having in place resilience processes in order to help their recovery.

Aims & Objectives

- To protect pupils from bullying as part of our responsibility to provide a safe, secure, caring and friendly school environment for all children.
- To look out for all signs of bullying and to take the appropriate action to stop it.
- To develop a school environment that is both safe and secure for all pupils.
- To have in place established systems that will deal with incidents of bullying.
- To develop confident children who will notify staff of any incident of bullying.
- To inform everyone connected with the school of the school's anti-bullying policy.
- To work with other schools to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Principal

Under Section 157 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the Principal has a duty to encourage good behaviour, the respect for others and to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils.

Therefore, the Principal will:

- implement this policy;
- ensure that all school personnel are aware of the policy;
- work to create a safe, secure, caring and friendly school environment for all the children;
- ensure school personnel have a clear understanding of the extent and nature of bullying that may take place in school;
- ensure that personal and social education curriculum and the religious education curriculum helps to deal with anti-bullying;
- investigate all reported incidents of bullying;
- ensure that all pupils understand that bullying is wrong;
- ensure that all parents aware of this policy and that we do not tolerate bullying;
- raise awareness of bullying with pupils, parents, school personnel and governors on the grounds of protected characteristics;
- consult with pupils and parents to identify the extent and nature of bullying in the school;
- inform parents of any incident of bullying and how it has been dealt with;
- ensure school personnel report and record incidents of bullying;
- keep records of all incidents of bullying;
- use records of incidents effectively to track pupils through school;
- keep records in a central log in order to build up a picture of concerns of individual pupils and in identifying patterns of behaviour;
- discuss with the school council:
 - A definition for bullying.
 - Are pupils aware of this policy?
 - How can bullying be effectively dealt with?
 - How good are school personnel in dealing with incidents of bullying?
 - How good are school personnel in identifying the symptoms of bullying amongst pupils?
- support any pupil who has been bullied;
- encourage any bully to change their behaviour;
- impose sanctions on any pupil who continues to bully;
- consider permanent exclusion in the most serious incidents of bullying;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- work closely with external agencies to support pupils who experience bullying;
- ensure effective supervision is in place between lessons, break times and lunchtimes;
- work with the wider community to deal with bullying that takes place outside school;
- deal with any form of bullying that takes place to and from school;
- proactively work with the police, parents/carers and the local community to help reduce local tensions;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;

- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring:
 - the number of recorded incidents in an academic year;
 - the types of bullying that occur in an academic year;
 - how swiftly incidents of bullying are dealt with
- report termly on the number of incidents of bullying and the outcomes
- annually report on the success and development of this policy

Role of the Coordinator

The coordinator will:

- lead the development of this policy and all linked policies throughout the school;
- work closely with the Principal;
- provide guidance and support to all school personnel to understand the signs or behaviour of someone being bullied;
- work with children to determine those parts of the school where they do not feel safe;
- have in place good systems at playtime and lunchtime to reduce the risk of bullying such as:
 - friendship stops
 - playground buddies
 - peer mentors
 - safe places for vulnerable groups
- organise an anti-bullying week;
- plan age-appropriate opportunities in the curriculum to discuss issues related to the protected characteristics;
- build pupils' resilience to bullying;
- develop philosophy sessions to provide children with opportunities to discuss equality and diversity;
- ensure good arrangements are in place for pupils transferring from the primary to the secondary phase;
- work closely with external agencies to support pupils who experience bullying;
- collaboratively work with other schools to identify common issues related to the protected characteristics;
- display posters of national and local help lines and where help is available in school;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- help counsel children who have been bullied and those who use bullying behaviour;
- review and monitor;
- annually report to on the success of this policy.

Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with this policy;
- be aware of all other linked policies;
- be aware of the signs of bullying in order to prevent bullying taking place;
- report all incidents of bullying;
- investigate all reported incidents of bullying;
- take all forms of bullying seriously;
- make sure that all pupils know what to do if they are bullied;
- encourage pupils to report any incidents of bullying to any member of the school personnel;
- support any pupil who has been bullied;
- raise awareness of the wrongs of bullying through personal and social education and religious education;
- use preventative strategies such as circle time and buddy systems;
- undertake the appropriate training;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

Role of Pupils

Pupils must:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- report if they are being bullied;
- report if they see someone being bullied;
- discuss ways of preventing bullying through the school council;
- follow the following instructions if they are bullied:
 - get away from the situation as quickly as you can
 - report what happened to you to one of the school personnel by telling them:
 - what has happened to you
 - how you feel
 - if you have been bullied before
 - who bullied you
 - where the incident happened
 - when it happened
 - make sure that your report is dealt with and who you told
 - tell your parents or another family member
 - ask for counselling if you are really upset
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- talk to others without shouting and will use language which is neither abusive nor offensive;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;

- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys.

Role of the School Council

The School Council will be involved in:

- determining this policy;
- agreeing a definition for bullying with parents, and the school personnel;
- discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
- organising surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy

Role of Parents

Parents must:

- be aware of and support this policy;
- be involved in agreeing a definition for bullying with pupils, and the school personnel;
- report to the school any concerns they have of their child being bullied;
- be assured that the school will deal with all incidents of bullying;
- be assured that they will be informed of incidents and will be involved in discussions;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school.

Training for School Personnel

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on this policy on induction which specifically covers:
 - What is bullying?
 - How to identify, prevent and manage bullying.
 - Types of bullying such as Cyberbullying, bullying, bullying of children with special educational needs, homophobic bullying and bullying around race, religion and culture.
 - Recognising bullying.
 - Anti-bullying strategies.
 - How to deal with a bullying incident.
 - Counselling the bullied and the bullies.
 - Anti-bullying week.
 - Tackling Homophobia
 - Building pupils resilience to bullying.
 - Working and co-operating with parents and carers
- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications

Records

- Records will be kept in a uniform and systematic way.
- All reported incidents of bullying are investigated, dealt with and recorded.
- Records will be kept of all incidents as well as specific types of bullying and their outcomes.
- All incidents are categorised according to the protected characteristics which gives a clear picture of patterns of behaviour over each term / academic year.
- Records of incidents will be used to effectively track pupils through school;
- Records will be kept in a central log in order to build up a picture of concerns of individual pupils and in identifying patterns of behaviour;
- Parents are informed of all events and what actions have been taken.

Counselling

- Counselling and support mechanisms are in place to help those who have been bullied.
- All perpetrators of bullying are given time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- School Handbook/Prospectus;
- School website;
- Staff Handbook;
- Meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops;
- School events;
- Meetings with school personnel;
- Written communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters;
- Annual report to parents;
- Headteacher reports to the Governing Body;
- Information displays in the main school entrance;
- Text messages
- Email
- Social media:
 - o Facebook
 - o Twitter
 - o Virtual pin boards
 - o School blog

Principal:

Mrs M Brown

Date:

September 2023