



Abbey Park School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Aim

The aim of the policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied and that staff are free from bullying by pupils. Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at the academy.

Throughout the policy the term 'parent' is used to mean a pupil's parent, carer or guardian.

Statutory duties at the School

The Principal has a legal duty under the School Standard and Framework Act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils. Under the Education Inspections Bill 2006 the duties are extended to include preventing/responding to bullying that happens outside of the Academy, where it is reasonable to do so. Academies have a duty to 'Safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils' (Education Act 2002) and to ensure that children and young people are free from bullying and discrimination (Children Act 2004) Government guidance advises that the policy should also address the bullying of staff by pupils ('Safe to Learn' DCSF 2007).

Scope of this policy and links to other policies

This policy includes:

- Bullying of pupils within the School
- Bullying of and/or by pupils outside of the School, where the School is aware of it
- Bullying of staff by pupils within or outside of the School

Allegations regarding bullying of pupils by staff will be dealt with under the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

This policy has links to the following School policies and procedures:

- Equality Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- ICT Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Complaints procedure

Definition of bullying

When a person's or groups behaviour, over a period of time, leaves someone feeling one or more of the following:

- Physically and/or mentally hurt or worried
- Unsafe and/or frightened
- Unable to do well and achieve
- Isolated, alone, unimportant and/or undervalued
- Unable to see a happy and exciting future for themselves.

When a person, or group of people has been made aware of the effects of their actions on another person and they continue to behave in the same manner, this **is** bullying.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Date Ratified: December 2018

Review Date: December 2019

If someone is made to feel like this, or if they think like this, it should be investigated. This should happen straight away as it can take a long time to build up the courage to tell, however, lots of things can make people feel bad, and it can sometimes depend on the situation so it is not always bullying – the following definition, adapted from one written by the Anti-bullying Alliance, may be useful:

Bullying is any behaviour by an individual or group that:

- Is meant to hurt - the person or people doing the bullying know what they are doing and mean to do it
- Happens more than once – there will be a pattern of behaviour, not just a ‘one off’ incident
- Involves an imbalance of power – the person being bullied will usually find it very hard to defend themselves.

It can be:

- Physical, e.g. kicking, hitting, taking and damaging belongings
- Verbal, e.g. name calling, taunting, threats, offensive remarks
- Relational e.g. spreading nasty stories, gossiping, excluding from social groups.
- Cyber e.g. texts, emails, picture/video clip bullying, instant messaging

The School recognises that bullying that is motivated by prejudice is a particular concern, for example racist, sexist and homophobic bullying and bullying related to perceptions about disability and/or special needs.

Identifying and reporting concerns about bullying.

All concerns about bullying will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.

Pupils who are being bullied may not report it; however, there may be changes in their behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absence or clinging to adults. There may be changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from the School. All staff will be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with this policy.

Pupils who are bullying others also need support to help them to understand and change their behaviour.

All pupils will be encouraged to report bullying by:

- Talking to a member of staff of their choice
- Writing a statement about the bullying concern and giving it to a member of staff of their choice
- Using the reporting tool on the School website
- Contacting local and national support agencies for advice/support
- Reporting to a member of their peer group such as prefects
- Talking to parents

Staff who are being bullied will be encouraged to report it to a colleague of their choice.

Parents are encouraged to report concerns about bullying and to support the School in tackling it.

Trying to resolve bullying directly with pupils or their families can lead to problems escalating and staff should put measures in place to combat this.

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Responding to reports about bullying

School

The School will take the following steps when dealing with concerns about bullying:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, it will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff that has been made aware of it
- The member of staff will appropriately log it on the school's electronic record system (Sims) using the 'bullying' drop down box
- A clear account of the concern will be recorded and given to the Head of Key Stage
- If a satisfactory solution is reached, no further action is taken
- If the Head of Key Stage receives a number of records of concern and is concerned about the behaviour, then further actions will be taken to address the behaviour
- Parents and other relevant adults will be kept informed when appropriate
- Where bullying occurs outside of the School, any other relevant Schools/ Academies or agencies (e.g. Youth Clubs, transport providers) will be informed about the action taken.
- Positive measures will be taken where appropriate and in consultation with all parties involved.

Pupils and staff

Pupils and staff who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice
- Providing reassurance that the bullying will be addressed
- Through the tutor and mentoring system being offered continuous support
- The use of specialist interventions and/or referrals to other agencies e.g. Educational Psychology, school counsellor and student support assistance, where appropriate

The following steps can be taken:

- Verbal warnings including contacting parents
- Restorative conversations
- Detention
- Internal exclusions
- Removal of ICT access
- Fixed-term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

Parents

Most concerns about bullying will be resolved through discussion between home and the School. However, where a parent feels their concerns have not been resolved, they are encouraged to use the Complaints Procedure.

Where a pupil is involved in bullying outside of the School e.g. in the street or through the use of the internet at home, parents will be asked to work with the School in addressing their child's behaviour, for example: restricting/monitoring their use of the internet or mobile phone.

A referral of the family to external support agencies will be made where appropriate.

Preventative Measures

The School will:

- Raise awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE), form tutorial time, assemblies, subject areas and informal discussion, as appropriate, in attempt to eradicate such behaviour.
- Participate in national and local initiatives such as Anti-Bullying week.
- Seek to develop links with the wider community that will support inclusive anti-bullying education.
- Consider the use of specific strategies, for example: peer mentoring on a regular basis and implement them as appropriate, subject to available resources.

Promotion of this policy

The policy and methods for reporting bullying concerns will be promoted throughout the School; for example, information packs for new pupils and staff and through regular awareness raising activities with pupils and their families.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The Head of Pastoral will lead on the implementation of the policy and act as the link person with the Local Authority.

The Head of Pastoral will regularly monitor any bullying incidents and monitor the results of all incidents, the actions taken and the associated outcomes.

The School will review the policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness