



Anti-Bullying Strategy

Approved by:	Tom Turnham Headteacher	Date: 01/09/2023
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Associated Policies:	Behaviour Policy	

Rationale

At Lyndhurst Primary School we believe that our school communities' happiness and safety are paramount factors to successful learning.

Bullying will not be tolerated in our school. The school has a positive approach to managing children's behaviour, which concentrates on praise, trust and respect. We recognise however that even in a positive and open climate bullying may still occur. This links with our school behaviour policy.

Aims

We aim to have a school where: -

- All feel secure and valued
- All are aware that the school is trying to reduce and prevent bullying behaviour
- All know how to cope with bullying
- All know how to deal with and respond to bullying
- All staff follow the procedures set out in this policy

Definition

The school defines bullying as all forms of behaviour which intentionally causes another to experience distress, fear or physical pain. Bullying is characterised by actions which are **repeated** and **targeted** at the same person, with the intent to cause harm although the action may be different each time.

What are the different types of bullying?

Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging and emailing, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. Bullying can be related to race, religion or culture, special educational needs or disabilities, appearance or health conditions, sexual orientation, home circumstances and sexist or sexual bullying.

Parents are encouraged to watch for signs of bullying in their children such as:

- Unexplained sudden shyness and lack of confidence
- Sudden tempers and nightmares

- Physical signs, e.g. bedwetting
- Reluctance to attend school
- A desire to take a different route to school.

(these signs do not however automatically mean a child is being bullied at school)

Reporting Bullying

We aim to create an atmosphere where children feel that they will be listened to, sensitivity will be shown, and swift action taken. We also aim to provide safety for the person being bullied or the person reporting a bullying incident. They will be kept aware of how the incident is being dealt with.

What to do if you think your child is being bullied

- Listen to your child – remain calm without reacting so they feel safe to talk to you.
- Make sure to reassure your child and praise them for telling you.
- If it is online bullying behaviour – save any evidence by screenshotting social media posts, messages etc block the person posting the content, do not reply back.
- Talk to your child's class teacher immediately. They will follow up the incident and let you know what is being done. The headteacher will be informed.
- If unhappy with the response then this should be discussed with the Deputy Headteacher/Headteacher.

What we do

- Pupils and staff involved (including witnesses) will be asked to record their statements- ideally this will be done before anyone has a chance to discuss events.
- The incident will be recorded on Bromcom (our information system) with statements collated and if relevant the CCTV consulted.
- Depending on the severity of the incident the victim and the bully might be brought together by staff and the incident talked through. This may also be done separately. The parents of the children will be informed and all will be made clear of the consequences should it continue.
- Our records will be reviewed to understand if the behaviour is repeated or targeted.
- It will be made clear to the child that their behaviours are of a bullying nature and that they must stop. The child displaying the bullying behaviours will be given the opportunity to change their behaviour with support if necessary. If it is felt appropriate then sanctions will be used.
- Once the incident has been dealt with the situation will be monitored to ensure the bullying has not resumed. If the bullying is seen to be continuing then further sanctions will be implemented (in conjunction with our behaviour policy).

Appendix A: Dehumanising and Racist Language Supplementary Advice and Guidance

What is dehumanising language?

Dehumanising language means terms of abuse that are used to refer to something or someone as inferior often in the context of minority groups. Any dehumanising language used in our schools must be addressed immediately. Informing children why it's wrong and how it can be hurtful and offensive is paramount in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all our children. It's OK to explain what words such as; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual mean to children in an age appropriate manner. Celebrating differences at our schools must be at the forefront of everything we do. We believe that ignoring them or saying you can't tell them won't help.

All staff must take a consistent approach to dehumanising language, like all other forms of discrimination.

- 1) Question what the pupil said – “What do you mean by that? Can trainers really be gay? Do you realise that language is homophobic /bi-phobic /transphobic? Do you understand why?”
- 2) Explain what the word means – “Did you know that word actually means....”
- 3) Link it to school values – “In this school we are advocates and are courteous to everyone...”
- 4) Personal context – “How would you feel if someone said that to you?”

Here are a few examples of other language stems to support you in tackling homophobic bullying:

“At our school we believe that everyone is special and we should celebrate our differences. We do not use the word X.”

“Have you ever considered what it must be like for someone to hear that kind of language? How do you think it is going to make them feel?”

“I am really surprised and disappointed to hear you say that. I hoped you would recognise that it is important to treat everyone, with respect and that it is therefore wrong to use such language.”

Appendix B: Cyber Bullying

Collecting and saving evidence.

It is important to be able to share evidence of what has happened with the school as soon as possible. Although it will be tempting for your child to delete distressing messages, without proof, schools, service providers or the police are limited as to how they can respond.

Keep the evidence and bring it into school.

- Make sure all text messages and emails are saved, and where possible, back these up elsewhere. Most social media platforms have options for reporting abuse.
- You may want to screenshot and save images in case the content is deleted before you can raise your concerns (e.g. with the school or the police).

Who should cyber-bullying and other online harms be reported to?

- It's important that you talk to your child about the next steps, seeking help and reporting. Your goal is for the bullying behaviour to stop and for your child to feel safe and happy again
- Report to the school even if it happens offsite, online or over the phone.
- Follow the school's Anti-Bullying Policy to report bullying or harassment and bring in any evidence of the cyberbullying with you.
- Report to the platform
- Report to the Police: Cyberbullying is not a specific criminal offence in the UK. However, incidents which are considered as harassment, threats or menacing communication may be an offence. For more information about whether the police can help, contact your local police station or 101.
- Reporting sexual abuse or grooming: If you have concerns about inappropriate communications that your child has received you should report this on the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre website.