



Anti-bullying Policy

Reviewed Every year	Curriculum Committee
Reviewed Term 1 19/20	Signed

Statement of intent

Monkton Park Primary believes that all pupils are entitled to learn in a safe and supportive environment; this means being free from all forms of bullying behaviour. This policy outlines how instances of bullying are dealt with, including the procedures to prevent occurrences of bullying.

These strategies, such as learning about tolerance and difference as part of the school's curriculum, aim to promote an inclusive, tolerant and supportive ethos at the school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 outlines several legal obligations regarding the school's response to bullying. Under section 89, schools must have measures in place to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures are part of the school's **Behavioural Policy**, which is communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents.

All staff, parents and pupils work together to prevent and reduce any instances of bullying at the school. There is a zero-tolerance policy for bullying at the school.

1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Education and Inspections Act 2006
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Protection from Harassment Act 1997
 - Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - Public Order Act 1986
 - Communications Act 2003
 - Human Rights Act 1998
 - Crime and Disorder Act 1998
 - Education Act 2011
- 1.2. This policy has been written in accordance with guidance, including, but not limited to:
 - DfE (2017) 'Preventing and tackling bullying'
 - DfE (2018) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'
 - DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- 1.3. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:
 - **Behavioural Policy**
 - **Cyber Bullying Policy**
 - **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

2. Definition

- 2.1. For the purpose of this policy, "bullying" is defined as persistent behaviour by an individual or group with the intention of verbally, physically, or emotionally harming another person or group.
- 2.2. Bullying is generally characterised by:
 - **Repetition:** Incidents are not one-offs; they are frequent and happen over a period of time.
 - **Intent:** The perpetrator(s) means to cause verbal, physical or emotional harm; it is not accidental.
 - **Targeting:** Bullying is generally targeted at a specific individual or group.
 - **Power imbalance:** Whether real or perceived, bullying is generally based on unequal power relations.

- 2.3. Vulnerable pupils are more likely to be the targets of bullying due to the attitudes and behaviours some young people have towards those who are different from themselves.
- 2.4. Vulnerable pupils may include, but are not limited to:
 - Pupils with SEND.
 - Pupils who are adopted.
 - Pupils suffering from a health problem.
 - Pupils with caring responsibilities.

3. Types of bullying

- 3.1. Many kinds of behaviour can be considered bullying and can be related to almost anything.
- 3.2. Teasing another pupil because of their appearance, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual-orientation, home life, culture, disability, or SEND are some of the types of bullying that can occur.
- 3.3. Bullying is acted out through the following mediums:
 - Verbally
 - Physically
 - Emotionally
 - Online (Cyber)
- 3.4. **Racist bullying:** Bullying another person based on their ethnic background, religion or skin colour. Racist bullying is a criminal offence under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Public Order Act 1986.
- 3.5. **Homophobic bullying:** Bullying another person because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.
- 3.6. **Transphobic bullying:** Bullying based on another person's gender 'variance' or for not conforming to dominant gender roles.
- 3.7. **Sexist bullying:** Bullying based on sexist attitudes expressed in a way to demean, intimidate or harm another person because of their sex or gender. Sexist bullying may sometimes be characterised by inappropriate sexual behaviours.
- 3.8. **Sexual bullying:** Bullying behaviour that has a physical, psychological, verbal or non-verbal sexual dimension/dynamic that subordinates, humiliates or intimidates another person. This is commonly underpinned by sexist attitudes or gender stereotypes.
- 3.9. **Prejudicial bullying:** Bullying based on prejudices directed towards specific characteristics, e.g. SEND or mental health issues.
- 3.10. **Relational bullying:** Bullying that primarily constitutes of excluding, isolating and ostracising someone – usually through verbal and emotional bullying.

4. Roles and responsibilities

- 4.1. The **governing board** is responsible for:
- Evaluating and reviewing this policy to ensure that it is not discriminatory.
 - The overall implementation of this policy.
 - Ensuring that the school adopts a tolerant and open-minded policy towards difference.
 - Ensuring the school is inclusive.
 - Analysing any bullying data to establish patterns and reviewing this policy in light of these.
- 4.2. The **headteacher** is responsible for:
- Reviewing and amending this policy, accounting for new legislation and government guidance, and using staff experience of dealing with bullying incidents in previous years to improve procedures.
 - Keeping a record of all reported incidents, including which type of bullying has occurred, to allow for proper analysis of the data collected.
 - Analysing the data in the bullying record at **termly** intervals to identify trends, so that appropriate measures to tackle them can be implemented.
 - Arranging appropriate training for staff members.
- 4.3. **Teachers** are responsible for:
- Being alert to social dynamics in their class.
 - Being available for pupils who wish to report bullying.
 - Providing follow-up support after bullying incidents.
 - Being alert to possible bullying situations, particularly exclusion from friendship groups, and that they inform SLT of such observations.
 - Refraining from gender stereotyping when dealing with bullying.
 - Understanding the composition of pupil groups, showing sensitivity to those who have been the victims of bullying.
 - Reporting any instances of bullying once they have been approached by a pupil for support.
- 4.4. Parents are responsible for:
- Informing the school if they have any concerns that their child is the victim of bullying or involved in bullying in any way.
 - Being watchful of their child's behaviour, attitude and characteristics and informing the relevant staff members of any changes.
- 4.5. Pupils are responsible for:
- Informing a member of staff if they witness bullying or are a victim of bullying.

5. Prevention

- 5.1. The school clearly communicates a whole-school commitment to addressing bullying which is regularly promoted across the whole school.

- 5.2. All reported or investigated instances of bullying will be investigated by a member of staff.
- 5.3. Staff will encourage pupil cooperation and the development of interpersonal skills using group and pair work.
- 5.4. All types of bullying will be discussed as part of the curriculum.
- 5.5. Diversity, difference and respect for others is promoted and celebrated through various lessons.
- 5.6. Opportunities to extend friendship groups and interactive skills are provided through participation in special events, for example, sporting activities.
- 5.7. All members of the school are made aware of this policy and their responsibilities in relation to it.
- 5.8. All staff members receive training on identifying and dealing with the different types of bullying.
- 5.9. Before a vulnerable pupil joins the school, the pupil's **class teacher** and the **DSL** will develop a strategy to prevent bullying from happening – this will include giving the pupil a buddy to help integrate them into the school.
- 5.10. The school will be alert to, and address, any mental health and wellbeing issues amongst pupils, as these can be a cause of bullying behaviour.
- 5.11. The school will ensure potential perpetrators are given support as required, so their educational, emotional and social development isn't negatively influenced by outside factors, e.g. mental health issues.

6. Signs of bullying

- 6.1. Staff will be alert to the following signs that may indicate a pupil is a victim of bullying:
 - Unwillingness to attend school
 - Becoming anxious or lacking confidence
 - Saying that they feel ill in the morning
 - Decreased involvement in school work
 - Returning home with torn clothes or damaged possessions
 - Missing possessions
 - Asking for extra money or stealing
 - Cuts or bruises
 - Lack of appetite
 - Unwillingness to use the internet or mobile devices
 - Lack of eye contact
 - Becoming short tempered
 - Change in behaviour and attitude at home
- 6.2. Although the signs outlined above may not be due to bullying, they may be due to deeper social, emotional or mental health issues, so are still worth investigating.

- 6.3. If staff become aware of any factors that could lead to bullying behaviours, they will notify SLT who will investigate the matter and monitor the situation.

7. Staff principles

- 7.1. The school will ensure that prevention is a prominent aspect of its anti-bullying vision.
- 7.2. Staff will treat reports of bullying seriously and they will not ignore signs of suspected bullying.
- 7.3. Unpleasantness from one pupil towards another is always challenged and never ignored.
- 7.4. Staff act immediately when they become aware of a bullying incident; this applies to all staff, not solely teaching staff.
- 7.5. Staff always respect pupils' privacy, and information about specific instances of bullying are not discussed with others, unless it is in a setting that the victim has given consent to, or there is a safeguarding concern.
- 7.6. If a member of staff believes a pupil is in danger, e.g. of being hurt, they will inform the **DSL** immediately.
- 7.7. Follow-up support is given to both the victim and bully in the months following any incidents, to ensure all bullying has stopped.

8. Preventing peer-on-peer sexual abuse

- 8.1. The school has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of peer-on-peer sexual abuse, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.
- 8.2. Sexual harassment refers to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that occurs online or offline.
- 8.3. Sexual harassment violates a child's dignity and makes them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and can create a hostile, sexualised or offensive environment. If left unchallenged, sexual harassment can create an atmosphere that normalises inappropriate behaviour and may lead to sexual violence.
- 8.4. To prevent peer-on-peer abuse and address the wider societal factors that can influence behaviour, the school will educate pupils about abuse, its forms and the importance of discussing any concerns and respecting others through the curriculum, assemblies and PSHE lessons.
- 8.5. The school will also ensure that pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum in PSHE lessons, RSE and group sessions. Such content will be age and stage of development specific, and tackle issues such as the following:
 - Healthy relationships
 - Respectful behaviour

- Gender roles, stereotyping and equality
 - Body confidence and self-esteem
 - Prejudiced behaviour
 - That sexual violence and sexual harassment is always wrong
 - Addressing cultures of sexual harassment
- 8.6. All staff will be aware that pupils of any age and sex are capable of abusing their peers and will never tolerate abuse as “banter” or “part of growing up”.
- 8.7. All staff will be aware that peer-on-peer abuse can be manifested in many ways, including sexting and gender issues, such as girls being sexually touched or assaulted, and boys being subjected to hazing/initiation type of violence which aims to cause physical, emotional or psychological harm.
- 8.8. All staff will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of pupils with SEND, who are three times more likely to be abused than their peers.
- 8.9. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the pupil's SEND and will always explore indicators further.
- 8.10. Pupils will be made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any reports will be handled – this includes the process for reporting concerns about friends or peers.

Managing disclosures

- 8.11. Victims will always be taken seriously, reassured, supported and kept safe.
- 8.12. Victims will never be made to feel like they are causing a problem or made to feel ashamed.
- 8.13. If a friend of a victim makes a report or a member of staff overhears a conversation, staff will act – they will never assume that someone else will deal with it. The basic principles remain the same as when a victim reports an incident; however, staff will consider why the victim has not chosen to make a report themselves and the discussion will be handled sensitively and with the help of CSCS where necessary. If staff are in any doubt, they will speak to the **DSL**.
- 8.14. The **DSL** will be informed of any allegations of abuse against pupils with SEND. They will record the incident in writing and, working with the **SENCO**, decide what course of action is necessary, with the best interests of the pupil in mind at all times.

Confidentiality

- 8.15. The school will only engage with staff and agencies required to support the victim and/or be involved in any investigation.
- 8.16. If a victim asks the school not to tell anyone about the disclosure, the school will not make this promise.

- 8.17. Even without the victim's consent, the information may still be lawfully shared if it is in the public interest and protects children from harm.
- 8.18. The **DSL** will consider the following when making confidentiality decisions:
- Parents will be informed unless it will place the victim at greater risk.
 - If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger or has been harmed, a referral will be made to CSCS.
- 8.19. More information regarding the school's stance on preventing peer-on-peer sexual abuse is available in our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.

9. Cyber bullying

- 9.1. The school has a **Cyber Bullying Policy** in place, which outlines the school's zero-tolerance approach to cyber bullying.
- 9.2. The school views cyber bullying in the same light as any other form of bullying and will follow the sanctions set out in section 12 this policy if they become aware of any incidents.
- 9.3. The school will support pupils who have been victims of cyber bullying by holding formal and informal discussions with the pupil about their feelings and whether the bullying has stopped.
- 9.4. In accordance with the Education Act 2011, the school has the right to examine and delete files from pupils' personal devices, e.g. mobiles phones, where there is good reason to do so. This power applies to all schools and there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone.
- 9.5. If an electronic device is seized by a member of staff, and there is reasonable ground to suspect that it contains evidence in relation to an offence, the device must be given to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable.
- 9.6. If a staff member finds material that they do not suspect contains evidence in relation to an offence, the **headteacher** will decide whether it is appropriate to delete or retain the material as evidence of a breach of the relevant policies.

10. Procedures

- 10.1. Minor incidents are recorded on Safeguard. This will inform a member of SLT who is able to investigate the incident, sets appropriate sanctions for the perpetrator.
- 10.2. When investigating a bullying incident, the following procedures are adopted:
- The victim, alleged bully and witnesses are all talked to separately
 - Members of staff ensure that there is no possibility of contact between the pupils being interviewed, including electronic communication
 - A room is used that allows for privacy during interviews

- A witness may be talked to for some incidents
- If appropriate, the alleged bully, the victim and witnesses, are asked to write down details of the incident; this may need prompting with questions from the member of staff to obtain the full picture
- Premature assumptions are not made, as it is important not to be judgemental at this stage
- Members of staff listen carefully to all accounts, being non-confrontational and not attaching blame until the investigation is complete
- All concerned pupils are informed that they must not discuss the interview with other pupils

11. Sanctions

- 11.1. If the **headteacher** is satisfied that bullying did take place, the pupil will be helped to understand the consequences of their actions and warned that there must be no further incidents.
- 11.2. The **headteacher** informs the pupil of the type of sanction to be used in this instance and future sanctions if the bullying continues.
- 11.3. If possible, the **headteacher** will attempt reconciliation and will obtain a genuine apology from the bully. This will either be in writing to the victim (and/or witnesses if appropriate), or face-to-face, but only with the victim's full consent. Discretion is used here; victims will never feel pressured into a face-to-face meeting with the bully.
- 11.4. The perpetrator is made to realise, by speaking **once per week** with their **class teacher**, that some pupils do not appreciate the distress they are causing, and that they should change their behaviour.
- 11.5. Parents are informed of bullying incidents and what action is being taken.
- 11.6. SLT informally monitors the pupils involved over the next **half-term**.

12. Support

- 12.1. For a month after the initial complaint of bullying, the **class teacher** holds an informal discussion, on a **weekly** basis, to check whether the bullying has stopped.
- 12.2. SLT holds a meeting, on a **monthly** basis, to check whether the bullying has stopped – these formal meetings will continue to take place **once a month** until all concerned are confident the bullying has stopped.
- 12.3. The victim is encouraged to tell a trusted adult in school if bullying is repeated.
- 12.4. The victim is encouraged to broaden their friendship groups by joining lunchtime or after-school club or activity.
- 12.5. If appropriate an ELSA will work with the victim to build resilience, e.g. by offering emotional therapy.

- 12.6. The school will work with the perpetrator regarding any underlying mental health or emotional wellbeing problems.

13. Follow-up support

- 13.1. The progress of both the bully and the victim are monitored by class teacher
- 13.2. One-on-one sessions to discuss how the victim and bully are progressing may be appropriate.
- 13.3. If appropriate, follow-up correspondence is arranged with parents **one month** after the incident.
- 13.4. Pupils who have been bullied are supported in the following ways:
- Being listened to
 - Having an immediate opportunity to meet with a member of staff of their choice
 - Being reassured
 - Being offered continued support
 - Being offered counselling, where appropriate
- 13.5. Pupils who have bullied others are supported in the following ways:
- Receiving a consequence for their actions
 - Being able to discuss what happened
 - Being helped to reflect on why they became involved
 - Being helped to understand what they did wrong and why they need to change their behaviour
 - Appropriate assistance from parents

14. Bullying outside of school

- 14.1. The **headteacher** has 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 the **headteacher** the power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises, and therefore, not under the lawful charge of a school staff member.
- 14.2. Teachers have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside of the school premises. 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.
- 14.3. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it is investigated and acted on.
- 14.4. In all cases of misbehaviour or bullying, members of staff can only discipline the pupil on school premises, or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the member of staff, e.g. on a school trip.
- 14.5. If the misbehaviour could be of a criminal nature, or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police are always informed.

