

Gilmorton Chandler C of E Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy M9

'Providing a quality learning network firmly based within a Christian environment. Achieving and celebrating excellence in all areas and in partnership with the community.' 'Living and learning together in God's love'

Signed by the Governing Body: November 2020

Agreed by the Governing body: november 2020

Review date: Autumn 2023 or earlier if required

All children are a gift from God. They are all special and should be allowed to develop, grow and flourish in a nurturing environment secure in the knowledge that they are cherished.

Bullying violates the value that each child and adult has before God. It is essential to affirm that each person has the right to walk in freedom and security, to develop their full potential. Bullying is a denial of this basic right.

Statement of Intent

At Gilmorton Chandler C of E Primary School we are very aware of the possible consequences of bullying and through this policy and practice we strive to address the negative effect that such experiences may have on both pupils and staff within the school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies: Behaviour and Discipline, Health and Safety, PSHCE, Safeguarding, Acceptable Use, Playground, and Community Cohesion.

Aims and objectives of the policy

- To raise awareness of bullying.
- To bring about conditions in which bullying is less likely to happen in the future.
- To ensure a whole school approach and consistent response to bullying.
- To reduce and, if possible, eradicate instances of all types of bullying.
- To make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

Statement of Principles

At Gilmorton Chandler we seek to provide a safe, secure and positive environment in which children and adults can grow, develop and flourish, making full use of the range of facilities available to them.

We are committed to a value system within which children and adults involved with them are entitled to be treated with respect and understanding and to participate without fear of intimidation. Any behaviour that undermines this is unacceptable.

We seek to ensure that those acting on behalf of our school will:

- Actively listen to children.
- Act appropriately on information received in order to ensure that a safe, secure and positive environment exists.
- Access professional development which enables them to provide a safe, secure environment and identify/support targets of bullying.

All our children have the right to feel secure, to be able to trust without fear, and to expect protection from adults in positions of care and responsibility. They also have a basic right to take full part in their education in an environment that does not subject them to cruelty or create despair.

All bullying is unacceptable, regardless of how it is delivered or what excuses are given to justify it.

Targets of bullying will be treated in a supportive manner, and their case heard in an atmosphere of positive concern.

Consultation

This policy was drawn up after consultation with pupils, parents/carers, governors and staff. Views and opinions were gathered through questionnaires, newsletters, staff meetings, governor meetings, assemblies and School Council meetings. The school will continue to gather stakeholders' views on the content and impact of the policy through annual questionnaires.

What is bullying?

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

(DfE Preventing and Tackling Bullying October 2014).

Although there are a number of definitions of bullying, these definitions would include the following characteristics:

- It tends to be repetitive
- It involves an imbalance of power
- It is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups.

Bullying is an antisocial behaviour. We must respond in a way which will help those children displaying bullying behaviour to improve. Increasing their anxiety and alienation from us is not likely to work.

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Types of bullying

Physical bullying - Physical bullying includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching and pushing or damaging property. Physical bullying causes both short term and long term damage.

Verbal bullying- Verbal bullying includes name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, or verbal abuse. While verbal bullying can start off harmless, it can escalate to levels which start affecting the individual target.

Social bullying - Social bullying, sometimes referred to as covert bullying, is often harder to recognise and can be carried out behind the bullied person's back. It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation. Social bullying includes:

- lying and spreading rumours
- negative facial or physical gestures, menacing or contemptuous looks
- playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate
- mimicking unkindly
- encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance.

Cyber bullying - Cyber bullying can be overt or covert bullying behaviours using digital technologies, including hardware such as computers and smartphones, and software such as social media, instant messaging, texts, websites and other online platforms.

Cyber bullying can happen at any time. It can be in public or in private and sometimes only known to the target and the person bullying. Cyber bullying can include:

- Abusive or hurtful texts emails or posts, images or videos
- Deliberately excluding others online
- Nasty gossip or rumours
- Imitating others online or using their log-in

Forms of Bullying

Racial, religious, cultural bullying- where the motivation for bullying is based on the targets skin colour, culture, nationality or faith.

SEN and disability bullying –where an individual or group are targeted because of a special educational need or disability which includes learning difficulties, sensory impairments and mental health conditions.

Appearance or health conditions- where an individual or group are targeted because of their physical appearance or a health condition for example a disfigurement, a traumatic injury, severe skin condition etc.

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Home Circumstances – where the motivation for bullying is based on the persons living arrangements for example: young carers, children in care or geographic locality i.e. where they live.

Homophobic and Biphobic bullying – relates to a person's sexual orientation. It is based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or vies about lesbian, gay or bi people. Individuals or groups can be targeted because of their actual or perceived sexuality. People who have lesbian, gay or bi family members can also be targeted as can students who do not conform to gender stereotypes.

Transphobic bullying – relates to gender identity. It is based on prejudice or negative attitudes, views or beliefs about trans people. Transphobic bullying affects people who are trans but can also affect those questioning their gender identity as well as people who are not trans but do not conform to gender stereotypes.

Sexual bullying – can relate to the target's gender or body, this can have a sexual and/or sexist element.

Members of School Staff

If any member of the school team feels they are being bullied by another member of school staff, pupils or parents they should discuss any concerns with the Head of School. If the Head of School is the cause of the complaint then the member of staff should contact the chair of the governing body. Andrew Shields (Head of School) has been identified as the member of staff with responsibility for bullying. Children, parents, carers, staff and members of the community with any issues related to bullying behaviour should speak to Andrew Shields.

Bullying Outside School Premises

Bullying can also occur outside the school gates and on journeys to and from school. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives head teachers a specific statutory power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under charge of a member of school staff.

Where a pupil, parent or member of the community tells us of bullying off the school premises we will investigate and act upon all information received as we would for an incident within the school grounds. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the head teacher will also notify the police.

Effects of bullying

Bullying can affect the target in many ways and some of these effects can be longstanding.

- Target's may spend their lives in fear. They often feel isolated from their peers and may believe that it is something about them which has led the child displaying bullying behaviour to pick on them.
- The target's life may be characterised by unhappiness, a sense of desolation and desperation and exclusion from normal social experiences. These feelings can permeate all aspects of the target's life and may lead to a strong desire to escape the situation by running away from home, truanting from school, and in some cases self harm or even take their own life.
- The targets of bullying may have reduced self esteem and self worth and their performance in school and other areas often deteriorates.
- Research evidence has shown that targets of bullying may be more likely to experience mental health problems at some stage in their lives.
- Research suggests that children who bully tend to become involved in other forms of difficult behaviour and like targets of bullying tend to underachieve at school.
- Research also suggests that children who display bullying behaviour are more likely to get into trouble with the law, suffer from alcohol abuse, have employment problems, suffer marital breakdown, suffer from some form of psychiatric disorder and are more likely to commit violent crimes later in life.
- Bullying behaviour does not just affect the target and the perpetrator. Those who witness or know of bullying may live in fear that it will be their turn next.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

Signs of bullying can be extremely variable and will very much depend on the individual. It is important, however, that parents/carers and school staff are aware of the signs and symptoms associated with bullying so that they can identify possible problems. The more common signs include:

- Physical signs e.g. Physical injuries, damaged clothing with no convincing explanation and general ill-health due to stress
- Emotional signs e.g. mood swings, apparent changes in personality, constant anxiety/nervousness, depression or tearfulness for no apparent reason, lack of confidence, negative self-image, hostility and defensiveness

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- Behavioural signs e.g. withdrawn, frequent, unexplained absences, poor concentration, eating disorders, alcohol/substance misuse, evidence of self harming and disruptive / challenging / bullying behaviour
- General e.g. frequently “lose” money / possessions, appears tired and lethargic, avoids entering / leaving school with others.

Preventing Bullying

Through the following preventative strategies and planned curricular opportunities we hope to lay the foundations of positive behaviour and to eliminate bullying before it becomes an issue.

- Awareness raising through Anti-bullying week, assemblies or lessons
- Clear Anti-Bullying policy which all members of the school are aware of
- Anti-Bullying message embedded throughout the curriculum
- National Enhanced Healthy Schools Status
- Reward system for positive behaviour
- Bullying charter prominently displayed
- Circle Time – opportunities for children to discuss sensitive issues in a safe environment
- PSHCE scheme of work – delivered throughout the school which focuses on fostering positive relationships, dealing with difficult decisions including witnessing bullying and what to do (Bystander behaviour) and feeling good about yourself etc
- Super leaders – older pupils supporting the younger pupils at play time
- Pupil consultation – through questionnaires and School and school Council
- Positive role models reflected through staff behaviour
- Ethos of the school
- Staff training on anti-bullying

Responding to Bullying

Responding to allegations

Bullying allegations can come from a number of different sources including from the child, child’s friends, parent/carer or staff member. All allegations will be listened to, taken seriously and acted upon. Allegations can be made face to face e.g. a child or parent/carer reporting directly to a member of staff (class teacher in the first instance), or indirectly via the super leader system or class/school council.

Responding to Bullying Incidents

Three issues will be addressed:

- **challenging** those responsible
- **supporting** the target
- **reporting** what has happened to the right people

	Responses
Challenge	Challenge incidents sensitively. Speak to targeted pupil(s) and perpetrator(s) privately explaining why bullying is not acceptable. Work with perpetrator(s) to change behaviours. Talk to parents/carers of all families. A combination of direct sanctions (loss of golden time, withdrawal from class/play areas) and restorative approaches are used. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children and initial discussions have proven ineffective, the head teacher may contact external support agencies. Persistence may result in exclusion.
Support	Comfort the targeted pupil(s) and discuss different ways in which you or the school can help. Talk to parents/carers. Support those children displaying bullying behaviour. Find out what sort of support they want. Help pupil(s) to contact peer anti-bullying support groups or access outside support. Monitor situation and follow up accordingly.
Report	Report the incident using school’s Bullying Incident Report Form Support pupil(s) to complete a Pupil Report Form if they want to. Make sure that everyone else who needs to know, such as class teacher, lunchtime supervisors and head teacher are aware.

RECORDING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS

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All bullying and hate incidents are recorded by staff in the format supplied by the head teacher – Bullying and/or Racist Incident Report forms. Dates, times and anything said by all children involved will be recorded for future reference. The head teacher will report incidents to the Governing Body on a termly basis. The head teacher is responsible for coordinating the recording system and analysing data. Staff will then use this data to discuss next steps for the school as well as to inform individual class planning of lessons.

All members of the school community are expected to report bullying (bystander behaviour).

PREJUDICE RELATED INCIDENTS

A prejudice related incident is one involving for example racist graffiti or sexist language, which needs to be addressed but may not constitute bullying because it is not repeated, not intentional or not directed at an individual.

These incidents often involve the same behaviour as that included in the ‘types of bullying’ section. An incident may be a prejudice-related incident or a bullying incident or both. The school would record and report a prejudice related incident in the same way as a bullying incident. Our school actively promotes equality and cohesion and therefore operates a zero tolerance approach to all forms of bullying, prejudice related incidents and those described protected characteristics under the Equality act 2010.

BULLYING OF STAFF BY PUPILS, PARENTS/CARERS OR OTHER STAFF

Bullying can occur between adults. Bullying tactics are sometimes employed in business; relationships between members of staff are sometimes characterised by bullying. Parents, carers, teachers and other adults sometimes bully children and vice versa. Staff are sometimes bullied by parents / carers. Staff as well as children benefit if school establishes an ethos that repudiates bullying. The senior leaders and governors of the school strive to support the emotional health and well being of the staff in the school and so we believe that all bullying incidents must be investigated. This includes any incident reported by a member of staff or being bullied by a child and or parent carer. Members of the school workforce suffering from or concerned about bullying can also contact their trade union or professional association for support and advice.

INVOLVING PARENTS

The school has an open door policy and class teachers and/or the head teacher will strive to speak with parents / carers to discuss any concerns immediately. Parental involvement in the response process has been outlined in the Response to Bullying section above. Parental questionnaires will be sent out at least annually to collect views on the impact of policy and practice. Newsletters will outline strategies we have put in place to maximise the family ethos of the school.

ANTI-BULLYING COMPLAINTS

If parents / carers are unhappy about the way that an alleged bullying incident has been handled they should in the first instance speak with the class teacher or head teacher. There is a School Complaints procedure if parents / carers are still concerned. Parents / carers will be advised of this procedure by the head teacher and a copy will be made available from the school office.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION THE POLICY

- The policy will be part of the everyday life of the school. It will be maintained regularly through display of posters, PSHCE and curriculum tasks.
- Collective worship
- It will be a regular item on School Council Agendas, at staff and Governors’ meetings.
- Its effectiveness will be monitored through annual parent, pupil and staff questionnaires and reported incidents.