



Anti-bullying Policy

"Enjoying learning and growing together."



Respect



Persevere



Achieve

Coordinators:	Head Teacher
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Updates:	

Introduction

West Denton Primary School aims:

To provide an enjoyable, caring, safe and supportive environment in which moral values and positive attitudes to learning are central to the ethos of the school.

To value all members of the school community, promote equality of opportunity and access to the curriculum for all pupils, developing the skills and attitudes necessary for pupils to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour.

To provide a foundation for life in the school and the wider community by promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils, enabling them to become good citizens.

We have high expectations for our pupils' behaviour and conduct. We teach and promote the following positive moral and social values:

- Taking responsibility for your own behaviour.
- The ability to make choices about our behaviours.
- Being honest and telling the truth.
- Having mutual respect and being polite to one another.
- Caring for others.
- Caring for the environment and the school building.
- Trying to do our best.
- Valuing other people's efforts.
- Accepting and recognising individual differences.

Bullying of any kind is against all that we teach and this policy sets out guidelines and advice to ensure that the whole school staff, pupils and parents in partnership, take steps to ensure that bullying does not occur in our school or beyond the school grounds.

Aims of this policy

West Denton Primary School seeks to provide a safe, secure and positive environment where:

- Children and young people can achieve their potential, making full use of the opportunities available to them.
- Children and young people involved have the right to have themselves and their property treated with respect and to be free from intimidation.

West Denton Primary School seeks to protect these basic human rights by ensuring that those acting on their behalf:

- Are proactive in setting up a range of preventative measures.
- Actively listen to children, young people and, where appropriate, their parents or carers.

Consultation process

This policy was drawn up by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, staff and governors. The aims and advice have been shared and discussed widely with pupils and parents. The policy takes into account DfE recommendations, the Human Rights Act 2000 and section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This document reflects the core values and aims of the school as expressed in the following policies:

- Positive Behaviour Culture
- Special Education Needs
- Equalities
- E-Safety

The policy will be revised in the light of up-to-date recommendations by the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team, in consultation with the governing body. Revisions and changes will be shared with pupils and parents, where appropriate.

Definition and identification of bullying

Bullying may be defined as the abuse of power by an individual or group with the intent to cause distress to another individual or group. It is deliberately hurtful behaviour which may be physical, sexual, verbal or psychological in nature. **It is often repeated over a period of time** by those who wish to cause distress to others.

Bullying should always be taken seriously. All bullying is unacceptable.

Bullying does not only occur between children. The above definition can also be seen to characterise some relationships between adults or between adults and children.

In more serious instances where adults abuse their power over a child or a child abuses their power over another child, bullying may be viewed as child abuse and should be treated as such.

Bullying is deliberately hurtful. It typically has seven elements:

1. an initial desire to hurt.
2. the desire is expressed in action.
3. someone is hurt either physically or emotionally.
4. there is an imbalance of power.
5. it is without justification.
6. it is typically repeated.
7. there is evident enjoyment by those who bully.

Bullying can also stem from thoughtlessness, such as in name calling or stem from institutionalised attitudes, for example in relation to gender or race. This is also unacceptable.

Bullying can typically take these forms:

1. Physical bullying *hitting, kicking, taking belongings.*
2. Verbal bullying *name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks.*
3. Indirect bullying *spreading stories/rumours, exclusion from social groups.*
4. Cyber bullying *takes place using electronic communication.*

Name calling is the most common direct form; this might be based on ethnic origin, nationality or colour, sexual orientation, some form of disability or other individual characteristics.

The use of mobile phones to text insulting, obscene or threatening messages is both verbal and indirect bullying. The use of phones and social media including camera phones to harass or transmit derogatory text messages and or photographs must also be viewed as bullying.

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.

- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - looking at use of the school systems;
 - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
 - contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.

Bullying is always significant to the person being bullied. Each case will be different, and the bully must be held accountable for their actions, as detailed in the school's Behaviour Policy.

Bullying by Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability

1. Racist Bullying

Following the Stephen Lawrence incident, the 1999 MacPherson report defines racist bullying as “any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person”

A child or young person may be targeted for being of a different group. Attacking the individual sends a message to that group. Incidents can include:

- Verbal abuse – name calling, racist jokes, offensive mockery / mimicry.
- Physical aggression or threats.
- Wearing offensive or provocative badges or other insignia.
- Bringing racist leaflets, comics or magazines into the school or organisation's premises.
- Inciting others to commit racist acts.
- Racist graffiti or other written insults including against food, music, dress or customs.
- A refusal to associate with someone of other ethnic origin in work or play.

2. Prejudiced based / hate incident

This is a one-off incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility, prejudice or ignorance, based on a person's perceived or

actual ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, beliefs, sexual orientation or gender identity or their association with someone from one of these groups. These can also include indirect prejudice driven behaviour that is not targeted at one individual. The impact of this expression of prejudice against an equality group whether intentional or not can be damaging and must therefore be responded to as a prejudice based or hate incident. One-off incidents are not bullying, however we separately record prejudiced based incidents identified using the above definition as we recognise the impact they can have and that they could be an indicator of bullying behaviour or contribute to an environment where bullying could happen.

3. Sexual Bullying

Sexual bullying is characterised by the following:

- Abusive name calling.
- Looks and comments about appearance, attractiveness, emerging puberty.
- Inappropriate and uninvited touching.
- Sexual innuendoes and propositions.
- Pornographic material.
- Graffiti with sexual content.

In its most extreme form, sexual bullying takes the form of sexual assault or even rape. Under these circumstances police would normally be involved as these are criminal offences.

Sexual Orientation: Pupils do not have to be lesbian, gay or bi-sexual to experience this type of bullying. In most cases being different can be enough. (In a survey 82% of teachers in 300 secondary schools in London were aware of verbal incidents. Only 6% of these schools referred to this type of bullying within their policy). Factors hindering schools in challenging homophobic bullying include staff inexperience and parental disapproval.

For further information and guidance consult the DfES publication on homophobic bullying "Stand Up for Us"

4. Disabilities

Children and young people with special needs or disabilities are often at a greater risk of being bullied, both directly and indirectly. The bullying is usually about their

specific difficulties or their appearance. This is compounded by the fact that these children and young people may not be able to articulate their experiences.

Recognising Bullying

A recent survey showed that bullying in schools is widespread. Although bullying can occur on journeys to and from school, most takes place in school. Research shows that 75% of bullying in primary schools takes place in the playground. In secondary schools it is also most likely outdoors but other hotspots are classrooms, corridors and toilets, especially when supervision is minimal.

Both boys and girls can bully as individuals or as members of a group. Children who bully others come from any kind of social or cultural background. Adult bullying of children also occurs and is equally unacceptable.

Bullying always creates inequalities and is damaging to all those involved. The person being bullied, the person who bullies and those who witness or know about the bullying are all affected in some way. Those who bully can experience difficult and unhappy relationships with both peers and adults and frequently need help to overcome these difficulties. Research evidence has shown that those who bully are more likely to engage in anti-social activities and have a greater prevalence of poor mental health.

A child or young person could have experienced both being bullied and having bullied others. Bullying is not a natural part of growing up and should never be accepted as such.

Those who bully may show aggression through for example, poor control of impulsive actions, a positive view of violence or a desire to dominate. They may exhibit anxiety through for example low self-esteem or difficulties in making friends. They may be easily led in joining in bullying or in standing by whilst bullying takes place.

Those who bully may experience difficulty in admitting what they have done; be reluctant to admit that what they have done is wrong; suppress feelings of guilt; feel no remorse and repeat the hurtful action, especially if this goes unchallenged.

Those who are bullied may spend their lives in fear. They often feel isolated from their peers and feel that they have done something to attract the bullying. Any child or young person can be bullied.

Those who are being bullied may experience:

- Unhappiness;
- A sense of desolation and in some cases, desperation;
- Reduced self-esteem and self-worth;
- Poor academic performance;
- Exclusion from normal social experience;
- A strong desire to escape the situation which may result in absconding or truancy;
- A desire to self-harm or even to commit suicide.

Those who are being bullied may exhibit the following:

- Unwillingness to attend or participate in activities;
- Unwillingness to venture into some areas of a building;
- Fear of walking to school or of using public transport;
- Underachievement;
- Books or clothes destroyed;
- Possessions and money going missing;
- Signs of distress such as crying easily, lack of appetite
- Becoming withdrawn or disruptive and/or aggressive;
- Stammering;
- Stealing to pay the bully or replace missing possessions;
- A variety of physical symptoms including cuts, bruising, aches, pain, faints, headaches, stomach upsets, bedwetting, disrupted sleep patterns;
- A marked change in well-established patterns of behaviour.

Those who are bullied are often reluctant to say what is wrong or to seek help.

Strategies for dealing with bullying

Any incidents of bullying will be dealt with according to the school's Assertive Discipline and Positive Behaviour Management Policy.

The following **strategies** will be used to minimise bullying: -

- The school value of respect is promoted across the school day and the curriculum
- PSHE education and other curriculum subjects are used to promote social and emotional skills including those needed to work together, show empathy, build friendships, get support and help others

- Small group work interventions are used to support those who need extra help to develop their social and emotional aspects of learning
- PSHE education lessons are used to develop understanding of safety and how to stay safe
- E-safety is taught across the curriculum and through assemblies and visual reminders around the school community
- PSHE education lessons are used to develop understanding of bullying, its impact and ways to respond to bullying situations. PSHE education is also used to develop understanding of similarity and differences and the unacceptability of all forms of prejudice and bullying
- Regular whole school assemblies are also used to develop understanding of bullying, its impact and encourage reporting
- The whole school participates in annual activities for anti-bullying week and a rolling programme of other events across the school year such as Martin Luther King Day
- PSHE lessons and Zones of Regulation sessions provide opportunities for dealing with issues that have arisen in the class and wider and a time to reflect
- The School Council provides a forum for discussing any bullying issues and for the pupils to decide ways of preventing it and supporting those who are bullied
- Anti-bullying ambassadors are selected from across Key Stage 2 to promote anti-bullying across the school. They receive support and training to do this.
- Staff are used to enable pupils to resolve friendship problems and low-level behaviour without adult intervention
- Play leaders are used to reduce potential conflict during break-time and lunchtime by providing a rich menu of play possibilities
- We regularly survey pupils / students and use this to inform developments
- The values of the school are always upheld. All staff monitor behaviour and intervene when it becomes necessary to address friendship problems and prevent bullying from developing. Staff on playground duty will inform class teachers of any incidents.
- Raise awareness through the curriculum to get pupils to talk about bullying in order for them to understand how abhorrent it is. i.e., Anti-bullying week, PSHE lessons and Zones of Regulation materials.
- Have clear procedures for investigating incidents and make all staff aware of them.
- Give pupils messages about bullying via role-play, assembly stories, poems etc.
- Praise good behaviour to give pupils an incentive to play happily with each other – using our Track-it Light system.
- Where possible try to encourage pupils to play games with each other giving them a purpose and direction to their play.

- The Buddies play an important role in breaking down barriers for children reporting instances of bullying, whilst stopping short of peer mentoring.
- The school fosters an ethos of openness and encourages pupils to report their concerns.
- Pupils and parents know that the school, whilst having no legal duty outside of the school precinct, will treat all reported instances of bullying on the journey to and from school with equal seriousness.
- All staff collate individual pupil information on our SIMS and CPOMS system. This record includes information about bullying and is there to build up a picture of evidence so that bullying can be identified with immediacy.
- Formal recording of instances of bullying takes place through the SIMS system and is reported to the Local Authority. Cases of bullying are dealt with through the school Positive Behaviour Management policy procedure. Parents are notified and involved if their child is recorded.
- Pupils may be 'closely monitored' on the yards to prevent incidences of behaviour. This will be organised and monitored by the Key Stage Leader.
- The school seeks the views of all stakeholders to ensure that incidents of bullying are reported promptly and acted on.

Where bullying has occurred, the school ensures that the instigator(s) understands that they are acting/have acted outside of the school's code of practice and against the school rules.

It is essential they acknowledge the impact of their actions. The school will specify actions and stipulate the repercussions. Victims will be given opportunities to discuss the issues and where appropriate, follow up work with the School Welfare Officer may be required. Parental engagement is paramount in the process to ensure a clear understanding of the incidence/s and the sanctions.

Examples of sanctions for engaging in bullying are: verbal warning; pupil moved away from the person being bullied; detention; referred to a senior member of staff; excluded from class/isolation and exclusion. Please refer to the school's Positive Behaviour Culture policy.

Responsibilities for the prevention of cyber bullying including mobile phone texting/messaging

- Pupils will be advised on cyber bullying through curricular activities and external consultants.
- Pupils and staff are required to comply with the school's Acceptable Use policy and agreement.
- Parents/Carers are required to sign the school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

- Parents/Carers are encouraged to discuss cyber safety and bullying with their child to supplement learning.
- Parents/Carers are provided with information and advice on cyber bullying.

Behaviour Meetings with Parents

When a parent/carer reports an incident of poor behaviour or bullying the class teacher must respond as soon as possible. Whether the discussion is via telephone or in person the staff member must:

- Listen to the details given by the parent/carer.
- Make an informal written record of what is being reported if appropriate.
- Make a clear written record of the concern using the 'Report of Behaviour' format. This will include what has been reported, what the staff member will do e.g. investigate the incident, close monitor etc and will give a review date for discussion with the parent/carer. **This 'check back' and follow up is essential in all dealings with parent issues as parents should be clear about what has been done, how the school has or is dealing with the issues and the success of the intervention.**
- Formal recording of behaviour reports to the class teacher should be shared with the Key Stage Leader and DHT/HT if appropriate. These records should be recorded in the school's CPOMS system. Racist or homophobic incidences will be officially logged onto the SIMS system, and reported to the full governing body, as part of the Head Teacher report.

Consequences

Sanctions by themselves are unlikely to change bullying behaviour but we may need to make decisions to keep the target of bullying behaviour safe (eg preventing a child who has used bullying behaviour from playing outside) or to help the child who has shown bullying behaviour learn some skills. These will be case and child-specific:

- Parents and carers of those involved will be informed of actions taken
- Records will be kept on pupils' files.
- We do not believe that children should be excluded from school and that school is the best place for children to learn positive behaviours and the consequences of negative behaviour.
- We do have legal powers to exclude children and while we don't intend to use these powers, it remains our right to do so.

- The school is able to administer:
 - Minor fixed-term suspension
 - Major fixed-term suspension
 - Permanent exclusion

Staff Training

All staff new to the school have access to this policy. There is regular training for all school staff on aspects of bullying and we take care to ensure all staff are trained to understand the different forms bullying behaviour [including cyber-bullying] and are trained to identify, record and challenge prejudiced based bullying and incidents.