

Bishop Carpenter CE Primary School



Anti – Bullying Policy

All of the governors and staff of Bishop Carpenter Primary School are committed to sharing a common objective to help keep the children and staff of the school community safe. We ensure that consistent effective safeguarding procedures are in place in order to support families, children and staff of the school.

Rationale for challenging bullying behaviour

Every school must have measures in place to prevent all forms of bullying.

Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides that maintained schools must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils.

- All members of our community regardless of home environment, gender, sexual orientation, race, faith, cultural or financial background, or ability are entitled to feel secure in the school environment;
- Bullying makes people unhappy;
- Pupils who are being bullied are unlikely to concentrate fully on their school work;
- Some pupils avoid being bullied by not going to school;
- Pupils who observe unchallenged bullying behaviour are likely to copy this anti-social example;
- The reputation of Bishop Carpenter Primary School as an effective and caring schools would be damaged if the behaviour were unchallenged.

Aim

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

Definition of bullying

In our school bullying is defined as targeted and persistent hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. This is explained to the children as **Several, Times, On, Purpose. (STOP)**

Types of bullying are identified as:

- emotional (e.g hurting people's feelings, leaving individuals out)
- physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft)
- verbal (e.g. name calling, racist remarks)
- racist (e.g. calling of names, graffiti)
- cyber (e.g. saying unkind things by text, e-mail, messenger services etc)
- peer on peer abuse (e.g. teasing among pupils – should never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter' or part of growing up)

BULLYING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AT BISHOP CARPENTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Occasional fighting or quarrelling between children should not automatically be called bullying. Bullying is **Several Times On Purpose. (STOP)**

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. Pupils must be encouraged to report bullying in school. All classroom environments will depict pictorial reference of adults available that the children can talk to or are worried if unsure.

Teaching and support staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with the school policy.

Statutory duty of schools

Headteachers have a legal duty under the School Standards and Framework Act to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils.

Preventative Steps

The promotion of a caring, sharing, kind, supportive school environment where pupils manifest high self-esteem is the best prevention of bullying behaviour.

A whole school approach is judged to be the most effective and this involves action at various levels;

- School ethos
- Policy development
- Curriculum development – Values curriculum activities, PSHE, Circle time, Buddy Systems, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, Positive Anti-Bullying Programme
- Support and training for adults and pupils in school
- Environmental design – play zones, friendship stops, displays
- Working in partnership with parents, pupils and the broader community

Identifying victim risk factors and addressing them, indicators such as-

- Lacking close friends;
- Being shy;
- Coming from an overprotective family environment;
- Being from a different racial or ethnic group to the majority;
- Being different in some obvious respect from the majority;
- Having special educational needs;
- Having low self-esteem/confidence;
- Lacking awareness of avoidance strategies;
- Being a 'proactive victim' - a child who behaves inappropriately with others, barging in on games or being a nuisance.

Pupils should be encouraged to be proactive when involved in or witnessing bullying behaviour by-

- Not allowing someone to be deliberately left out of a group;
- Not smiling or laughing when someone is being bullied;
- Telling a member of staff what is happening.
- Encouraging the bullied pupil to join in with their activities or groups; Playground Champions
- Telling the bullying pupil to stop what they are doing;
- Showing the bullying pupil they disapprove of their actions.
- Not gossiping about situations or adding untrue details

Dealing with any Incidents of Bullying

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- If the incident is of a serious nature a clear account of the incident will be recorded on an initial concern form and given to the Headteacher
- If appropriate the Headteacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- If appropriate the accused and victim will be spoken to together and all parents informed
- Class teachers will be kept informed and if it persists advise other appropriate staff
- Parents will be kept informed
- The Headteacher or Senior Teacher will monitor the situation and report back to parents the outcomes of any involvement.
- Punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff

- Reassuring the pupil
- Offering continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- Staff monitoring

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened

- Discovering why the pupil became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil
- Staff monitoring

The following disciplinary steps can and may be taken:

- Official warnings to cease offending
- Exclusion from certain areas of school premises or restrictions at lunch or break time
- Exclusion as per the escalation of Exclusion Policy

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in values curriculum activities, reflection time, PSHE, circle time, class time, assemblies and subject areas and anti-bullying themed lessons as appropriate.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have a crucial part to play in encouraging their children to behave appropriately in school. It is important that the child sees home and school working in harmony. If a parent perceives a 'bullying' problem they should bring it to the attention of their child's class teacher. The school will always listen carefully remembering children often behave differently at school to home and may only tell half a story. This should be taken into account when parents are discussing concerns with the school. It is important children learn to share, take turns and also take 'no' for an answer; they cannot always have what they want and life may seem unfair. Adults' behaviour towards each other can set a good example to the children of how to behave responsibly when they reach adulthood. Parents are strongly discouraged from airing disagreements with other adults in front of their or other children. The school will address issues which directly affect the children at Bishop Carpenter. The Home School Agreement stipulates the safe and sensible use of social media in these instances. All adults associated with Bishop Carpenter Primary School should be positive role models to the children.

Incidents of bullying outside the school's premises

School staff members have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises. Sections 90 and 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 say that a school's disciplinary powers can be used to address pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff, but only if would be reasonable for the school to regulate pupils' behaviour in those circumstances. This may include bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shop or in a town or village centre.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The Headteacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police of the action taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

While school staff members have the power to discipline pupils for bullying that occurs outside school they can only impose the disciplinary sanction and implement that sanction on the school premises or when the pupil is under the lawful control of school staff, for instance on a school trip. Parents will be informed.

Bullying can also take place via text messages, Messenger and other means of 'cyber communication'. This often happens out of school hours, but has implications for the parties involved when they are in school. We would always talk to pupils and parents about the issues and take their concerns seriously. DFE guidance on Searching, screening and confiscation Jan 2018 states that the Headteacher can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees and that Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. The Education Act 2011 outlines that when an electronic device, such as a mobile phone, has been seized by a member of staff who has been formally authorised by the Headteacher, that staff member can examine data or files, and delete these 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.

If an electronic device that is prohibited by the school rules has been seized and the member of staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that it contains evidence in relation to an offence, they must give the device to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable. Material on that device that is suspected to be evidence relevant to an offence should not be deleted prior to giving the device to the police.

Adult Bullying

From time to time, adults behave inappropriately towards each other. If any parent feels that they are being treated inappropriately within our school community they must report this to the Headteacher. On occasions, when a parent suspects another child of inappropriate behaviour towards their own child, they try to take matters into their own hands. This can result in:

- parents approaching other parents in groups
- inappropriate verbal exchanges in front of pupils
- a breakdown in communication

If children are experiencing problems with other children, parents must not try to take matters into their own hands. Parents confronting other parents or pupils in the playground is not acceptable and could be viewed as bullying. The school should be informed immediately of any concerns so that we may intervene to resolve the problem to ensure our school community remains a happy, safe and enjoyable place where everyone wants to be.

Governor Monitoring

A nominated Governor will be responsible for regularly monitoring any Bullying Allegation forms and following up on how the incident was dealt with. Incidents of bullying are reported in the Headteacher's Update. Allegation forms are not shared in a wider forum due to the sensitive nature of the information recorded. Should the Headteacher have any serious concerns about a bullying allegation these will be shared immediately with the Chair of Governors

Any racist incidents will be immediately reported to the Local Authority and the Chair of Governors.

Questions on bullying are included in Pupil Surveys and Parent Surveys and responses are reported to the Governing Body.

Policy Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Reviewed:

Signed: _____ Headteacher

_____ SENCO

_____ Chair of Governors

Renewal September 2021