

Colvestone Primary School



Anti Bullying Policy

Review Date	Changes made/Details of action plan	Due Date	By Whom
Jan 2023	New Policy written	Jan 2025	Robin Warren



All children and young people have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting young people's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood.

At Colvestone School, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere free from oppression and abuse. Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone. All types of bullying are unacceptable at our school and will not be tolerated. All children should feel able to tell and when bullying behaviour is brought to our attention, prompt and effective action will be taken. We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who is aware of any type of bullying that is taking place is expected to tell a member of staff immediately.

Bullying is never tolerated in our family-orientated school community or in society. Colvestone School is an effective and caring school environment in which demonstrates through policy and action, the will to respond both positively and effectively to bullying in all its forms. We strongly believe that effective learning can only be facilitated in a safe and caring environment.

Everyone in our School community is entitled to equal respect and appreciation, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, Special Educational Need or disability, health, age, home circumstances, sexuality or physical appearance. We also recognise and acknowledge that bullying is a complex problem sometimes without any easy solutions or answers.

Bullying (as defined by the DfE) is: deliberately hurtful, repeated behaviour - often over a period of time. It may be physical or emotional and includes racist, sexist and homophobic behaviour, including anti-LGBT. This behaviour can also be communicated remotely, through text messages or other mobile phone apps or via the internet etc.

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical.

"Bullying behaviour abuses an imbalance of power to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people. Isolated instances of hurtful behaviour, teasing or arguments between individuals would not be seen as bullying" (Torfaen definition 2008)

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, can have a significant effect on a

child's wellbeing and in very rare cases has been a feature in the suicide of some young people.

All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying must be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. All children and parents receive a copy of the anti-bullying procedures on joining the school and the subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in the (PSHE) curriculum. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the anti-bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the Head of School and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider implementing safeguarding procedures.

A member of SLT deals with all incidents of an intolerant nature. Racial, homophobic, transphobic, religious or other slurs are all recorded onto our record keeping system. We do not tolerate bullying or intolerance of any kind in our schools and these incidents are all logged and analysed separately. Support will be given to both the victim and the perpetrator to ensure that the victim feels safe and the perpetrator understands why the behaviour demonstrated is unacceptable.

Our Aims

We aim to prevent bullying from happening in school and outside of school, including via cyberbullying, by:

- teaching children to recognise different forms of bullying and the effects these have on victim and perpetrator
- teaching children strategies for prevention, and
- by identifying effective procedures for dealing with incidents, and making these clear to children, parents, and staff.

The school's Anti-Bullying Procedures are monitored and reviewed regularly, as are the number and nature of incidents. In the case of online bullying, disciplinary sanctions may be imposed, even in relation to conduct that takes place outside school premises.

The school challenges all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality:

- Prejudices around disability and special educational needs
- Prejudices around race, religion or belief, for example anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, Travellers, migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum
- Prejudices around gender and sexual orientation, including homophobic and transphobic attitudes

Anti-Bullying Procedures Procedural objectives

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
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to a member of the Leadership Team.
- A member of the Leadership Team, will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- Class teachers will be kept informed and if it persists the class teacher will advise the appropriate subject teachers
- Parents will be kept informed
- Sanctions / Next steps applied in line with the behaviour policy
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted although this is unlikely

Children who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Being offered an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their class teacher or a member of staff of their choice
- Being reassured and offered continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence

Children who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why the child became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and the need to change
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child

The Leadership Team will:

- Communicate behaviour expectations in the Home School Agreement and start of year parent meetings
- Reinforce and model the expectations and use the reward system as stated in the Behaviour Policy.

- Use assemblies to raise awareness of anti-bullying and reiterate the message that it will not be tolerated in our school.
- Support staff by following up reported incidences.
- Communicate with parents on a regular basis about how the School prevents and deals with bullying.
- Follow up incidents to check bullying has not started again: two weeks after report and the following half term

The Class teachers will:

- Reinforce and model the expected behaviour
- Provide a regular forum in class for discussion using Circle Time.
- Timetabled teaching of the PSHE scheme of work
- Report all incidents of bullying by: investigating as soon as possible, recording all details and making sure all statements are taken and informing a member of the Leadership Team.

Interventions:

- Anti-bullying week is held in school every November in order to raise staff, pupil and parent awareness, revisit key messages and show our support for wider work.
- Circle Time provides a weekly forum for discussion around the subjects of bullying, friendship and respect through the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) materials.
- A range of activities and games are provided during lunchtime play, which are managed by lunchtime supervisors. In addition to ensuring children have opportunity to engage in positive play, activities provide opportunity for staff to teach social skills and reinforce positive behaviour.
- There are opportunities for children to make a positive contribution to their peers' break-time experiences. Members of the team look out for children who are left out or upset and then help them find others to play with, or support them to find solutions to their problems.
- Adults working one-to-one with children on a range of intervention or support.

Cyber-bullying

“Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.”

Department for Children Schools and Families

Cyberbullying can have a serious impact because of a number of factors including:

- Invasion of personal space
- The anonymity (at least initially) of the bully
- The ability to broadcast upsetting messages and images rapidly to a potentially huge audience and to continue to do so repeatedly over a long period of time .

Cyber-bullying by children via emails and texts will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and managed through our anti-bullying procedures. Chatrooms and social networking sites are the most obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful content and behaviour, which children are not allowed to access in school. Some children will undoubtedly 'chat' on mobiles or social networking sites at home and the school will encourage parents to consider measures to keep their children safe when using social media.

Whilst some cyberbullying is clearly deliberate and aggressive, it must be recognised that some incidents of cyberbullying may be unintentional and the result of simply not thinking about the consequences.

Preventing Cyberbullying

Members of the Colvestone community will understand and discuss cyberbullying through:

- The sharing of the definition of cyberbullying

- The discussion of cyberbullying and its forms
- The learning of our responsibilities in the use of ICT, and the sanctions for its misuse
- Agreed rules will be followed when using ICT (see Acceptable Use of ICT Policy)

The prevention of cyberbullying will be promoted through discussion and student activities around what cyberbullying is and how it differs from other forms of bullying. Cyberbullying education will be delivered through PSHCE lessons, Year Group Events and through ICT lessons.

Complaints Procedure Parents and pupils are encouraged to use our complaints procedure if they feel that their concerns about bullying (or anything else) are not being addressed properly.

BULLYING INFORMATION, SUPPORT & HELP-LINES

Additional sources of guidance and information:

Outside agencies who can offer support are:

ChildLine: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

Samaritans: 08457 90 90 90

Anti-Bullying Campaign

185 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2UF.

Tel: 0207 378 1446

(9.30 am - 5.00 pm).

Advice line for parents and children.

Kidscape

2 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH.

Tel: 0207 730 3300

Has a wide range of publications for young people, parents and teachers. Bullying counsellor available Monday to Friday, 10-4.