

Donnington Wood Infant School & Nursery



Anti-bullying policy

Date of Policy Creation	May 2019	Named Responsibility	Headteacher – Mrs C Boddy
Date of review completion	September 2023	Named Responsibility	Resources Committee
Inception of new Policy	October 2023	Named Responsibility	Mrs C Boddy
Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body	9 th October 2023	Review due	October 2024

All staff and will be given a copy of this policy. Copies are available from the office or via the website for parents and members of the wider community

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies e.g. Behaviour, Health and Safety, Safeguarding Policy, E-safety policy, Equality Policy, Accessibility Plan.

Principles and Values

Donnington Wood Infant School & Nursery's Anti- Bullying Policy outlines what we will do to prevent and tackle bullying. This policy has been drawn up with the involvement of the whole school community.

learning, caring, preparing

At Donnington Wood Infant School and Nursery our core values of 'learning, caring, preparing' drive teaching and learning for all children. We are passionate about being inclusive and working with the whole school community to equip children with knowledge and skills to

- be successful in their learning
- aspire and achieve in their futures
- show respect and compassion for those around them
- demonstrate the ability to make a positive contribution to society

Aims and objectives of the policy

As a school we take bullying and its impact seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that known incidents of bullying will be responded to. Bullying will not be tolerated. The school will seek ways to counter the effects of bullying that may occur within school. The ethos of our school fosters high expectations of behaviour and we will consistently challenge any behaviour that falls below this.

Our anti-bullying policy aims to:

- Clarify for pupils, staff, governors and the wider school community what bullying is and that it is always unacceptable, regardless of how it is delivered or what excuses are given to justify it
- Promote respect and tolerance for each other, including and engaging with everyone's perception of bullying
- Provide a secure, stimulating, positive and mutually respectful and inclusive environment for learning
- To bring about conditions in which bullying is less likely to happen in the future
- To ensure a consistent, whole school approach to tackle bullying and support victims of bullying
- To reduce and , if possible, eradicate instances of all types of bullying

What is bullying?

School Council definition April 2019

'Bullying is where it happens more than two times and on purpose. Donnington Wood Infant School is learning, caring and preparing and none of these mean bullying. Someone who bullies other people is feeling sad or angry and we need to help them. We can make them happy by going to the Rainbow room or learning in Jigsaw how to be kind. They need to be taught. If something happens tell a grown up. The teacher will help you. You can write a wish or worry.'

Addition to School Council definition January 2020

'Bullying is when the same person hurts you or calls you names every day on purpose. Caring means we look after people. We make friends, we don't fight. If we have been bullied we can tell the teacher who will help us'

DfE definition - Preventing and tackling bullying - Advice for headteachers, staff & governing bodies July 2017

'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, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.'

At Donnington Wood Infant School and Nursery bullying is considered to be, “unacceptable behaviour which occurs **‘lots of times, on purpose’.**” Bullying can be short term or continuous over long periods of time. Bullying can take place anywhere, including cyberspace.

Bullying can be:

- Verbal: e.g. ‘joke’ making, mimicry/ridicule, name calling, spreading rumours, swearing, verbal abuse, gossiping, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments
- Physical hurt/attack: e.g. physical intimidation, mimicry, unwanted or inappropriate touching, kicking, hitting
- Inciting others to bullying behaviour e.g. encouraging others to bully so that they receive the consequences rather than the instigator
- Psychological: e.g. damage to reputation (sexual, denial of identity, gender /ethnicity), extortion of belongings, identity theft / impersonation, isolation /refusal to work/play with other pupil, revealing personal information, threats
- Cyberbullying: sending offensive messages or any other ‘verbal’ bullying but through a digital medium eg. chat-rooms, blogs, instant messaging, social network sites, email, game consoles, mobile phones, digital images
- Damage to property: e.g. graffiti, personal property
- Literature: e.g. distribution/possession of posters/leaflets, literature or material, e.g. pornography, wearing or display of offensive insignia
- Victimisation after previous complaint e.g. bullying due to either victims or bystanders speaking out as a result of a past bullying incident.

Bullying may be related (but not restricted) to:

- Race
- Gender
- Religion
- Culture
- SEN or disability
- Appearance or health condition
- Home circumstances
- Sexual orientation, sexism, or sexual bullying, homophobia, transphobia

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 property with no convincing explanation and general ill-health due to stress, such as feeling ill in the morning
- 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, withdrawn, reluctant to go to school
- Behavioural signs e.g. withdrawn, frequent, unexplained absences, poor concentration, eating disorders, alcohol/substance misuse, evidence of self harming and disruptive/challenging/bullying behaviour, afraid to use the internet / mobile phone, nervous / jumpy when a message is received

- General e.g. frequently “lose” money/possessions, appears tired and lethargic, avoids entering/ leaving school with others, starts stealing / asking for money

These signs and behaviours could indicate other social, emotional and/or mental health problems, but bullying should be considered.

What do we do to prevent bullying?

- Work with staff and outside agencies to identify all forms of prejudice-driven bullying
- Actively provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils’ social and emotional skills, including their resilience eg
 - weekly ‘Jigsaw;’ lesson to develop social, emotional and citizenship skills
 - raising awareness assemblies and Anti-Bullying week (Nov)
 - reward system for positive behaviour
- Consider all opportunities for addressing bullying including through the curriculum, through information and displays, through peer support and through the School Council eg
 - reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
 - making up role-plays about what to do through scenarios of bullying
 - having discussions about bullying and why it matters that children who use unacceptable behaviour towards others are dealt with quickly
- Train all staff to identify bullying and follow school policy and procedures on bullying
- Actively create ‘safe spaces’ for pupils eg
 - Circle Time – opportunities for children to discuss sensitive issues in a safe environment
 - Small group work with Pupil & Family Support Staff
 - ‘Wishes and worries’ well for all children to raise any worries or concerns
 - ‘Safety Superstars’ pupil group to promote safety and wellbeing
 - Pupil consultation – through questionnaires and the School Council

How do we work together to prevent or tackle bullying?

Pupils

We actively encourage anyone who is being bullied, or others who know about it, to feel that they will be listened to, and that action will be swiftly taken which is sensitive to their needs. This may be done through assemblies, School Council, circle time, Jigsaw (PSHE) and focused Anti-Bullying weeks.

Disclosure (telling an adult/peer) can be direct and open or indirect and anonymous. Everyone must realise that not telling someone means that the bullying is likely to continue.

Parents/Carers

We expect that parents/carers will:

- Understand and engage with everything that is being done to make sure their child enjoys and is safe at school

We will ensure parents/carers:

- Know who to contact if they are worried about bullying including our complaints procedure
- Feel confident that everything is being done to make sure their child/children is/are happy and feel safe at school
- Are informed about and fully involved in all aspects of their child’s behaviour

We discourage parents from :

- attempting to sort the problem out themselves
- speaking to the child(ren) whom they think may be behaving inappropriately towards their child
- speaking to the parents of the other child(ren) involved
- encouraging their child to be 'a bully' back.

All of these will only make the problem much harder to resolve.

We will work with parents/carers to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.

Staff

We expect staff to:

- Provide children with a framework of behaviour including class rules which supports the whole school policy
- Emphasise and behave in a respectful and caring manner to pupils and colleagues, to set a good tone and help create a positive atmosphere
- Provide pupils with a good role model
- Raise awareness of bullying through stories, role-play, discussion, peer support, pupil/student council, Jigsaw (PSHE), RE and Citizenship
- Through the Headteacher, keep the Governing Body well informed regarding issues concerning behaviour management
- Work with the whole school community so that the anti-bullying policy can be properly enforced and monitored
- Ensure pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying
- Ensure all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying discussions in schools
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied
- Work with pupils who have been bullied in order to address the issue/s and put an action plan in place

Governors

We expect that Governors will:

- Support the Headteacher and the staff in the implementation of this policy
- Be fully informed on matters concerning anti-bullying
- Regularly monitor incident reports and actions taken to be aware of the effectiveness of this policy

How do we deal with an incident of bullying?

Bullying incidents will be taken seriously and support will be provided for the person being bullied and the person who is the bully :

- Talking through the incident with the pupil being bullied and the child(ren) bullying
- Helping the pupil being bullied and the child(ren) bullying to express their feelings
- Talking about which rule(s) has/have been broken
- Discussing strategies for making amends and future behaviour
- Small group or 1:1 work with Pupil & Family Support Staff
- Inform parents as appropriate

Sanctions may include:

- Time away from an activity within the classroom or outside

- Formal letter home from Headteacher
- Meeting with staff, parent/carer and/or pupil(s)
- Daily or weekly behaviour logs
- Behaviour Support Plan (PSP)
- Exclusion (internal/external)

Recording

Incidents identified or suspected as bullying must be reported to the Headteacher (or senior member of staff) in person and recorded on CPOMS. All further actions will also be recorded on CPOMS. All staff have access to the system. Where appropriate, incidents will be discussed in weekly staff meetings so staff can work together to monitor and resolve the situation

If parents are unhappy about the way that an alleged bullying incident has been handled they should in the first instance speak with the class teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or Head Teacher. There is a School Complaints procedure if parents are still concerned.

What happens if an adult is being bullied?

Bullying can occur towards or between adults. The Leadership Team 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 of being bullied by a child, parent or other member of staff. Members of the school workforce suffering from or concerned about bullying can also contact their trade union or professional association for support and advice.

How will we monitor and evaluate the policy?

- The policy will be part of the every day life of the school.
- It will be a regular item on School Council Agendas, at staff and Governors' meetings.
- Its effectiveness will be monitored through questionnaires and reported incidents.
- The policy will be reviewed annually.

Useful Contacts

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 020 7354 8321

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204 www.kidscape.co.uk

Family Lives - Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222 www.familylives.org.uk

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk

Childline – 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Anti-Bullying alliance – www.Anti-Bullyingalliance.org.uk

Beatbullying – www.beatbullying.org

NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk

Think U Know – www.thinkuknow.co.uk - cyberbullying and e-safety information