

# Whitehill Junior School



## Anti-Bullying Policy

(To be read in conjunction with the  
School's Behaviour Policy)

**Date for Review September 2019**

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Mrs Sam Addison **Chair of Governors**

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Mr Steve Mills **Headteacher**

Dated

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## Principles and Values

At Whitehill Junior School we take bullying very seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated. The school will seek ways to counter the effects of bullying that may occur within school or in the local community. The ethos of our school fosters high expectations of outstanding behaviour and we will challenge any behaviour that falls below this.

## Objectives of this Policy

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents and governors should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff and governors should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

All of us have encountered bullying at some point in our lives, but we all deal with it differently. The aim of this policy is to work together to ensure that school is a safe place for children and adults to be, whether the school community is directly or indirectly affected by bullying or not.

## What Is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. In other words, bullying at Whitehill Junior School is considered to be, “deliberately hurtful behaviour which occurs **‘lots of times, on purpose’**.”

Bullying can be short term or continuous over long periods of time.

Bullying can be:

<b>Emotional</b>	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
<b>Physical</b>	Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
<b>Racial</b>	Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
<b>Sexual</b>	Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
<b>Homophobic</b>	Because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
<b>Direct or Indirect Verbal</b>	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
<b>Cyber bullying</b>	All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology.

Bullying may be related to:

- Race
- Religion
- Culture
- SEN or disability
- Appearance or health condition
- Home circumstances

- Sexual orientation, sexism, or sexual bullying

Bullying can take place anywhere; this might include the classroom, playground, toilets, on the journey to and from school, on residential trips and cyberspace.

## **Bullies and Victims**

Bullying takes place where there is an imbalance of power between bully and victim.

This can be achieved by:

- The size of the individual,
- The strength of the individual
- The numbers or group size involved
- Anonymity – through the use of cyber bullying or using email, social networking sites, texts etc.

Staff must remain vigilant about bullying and approach this in the same way as any other category of Child Abuse; that is, do not wait to be told before you raise concerns or deal directly with the matter. Children may not be aware that they are being bullied; they may be too young or have Special Educational Needs. Staff should be able to identify children who may be vulnerable and who could fall victim to bullying as well as those who may demonstrate bullying behaviour.

## **Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?**

Bullying hurts! No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Bullying has the potential to damage the mental health of a victim. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

## **Signs and Symptoms of Bullying**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong

- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous and jumpy when a cyber-message is received
- does not maintain eye contact
- becomes short tempered
- changes in their attitude to people at home.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

## **Outcomes**

1. All known/reported incidences of bullying will be investigated by the class teacher or by a senior member of staff.
2. Parents of the victim may also be questioned about the incident or about their general concerns.
3. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place. E.g. a parent being informed about their child's behaviour.
4. In some cases, outside agencies may be requested to support the school or family in dealing with bullying e.g. police, counsellor, Family Support Worker, etc.
5. In serious cases, fixed-term or even permanent exclusion will be considered.
6. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
7. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be recorded by the headteacher and monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## **Prevention**

At Whitehill Junior School we use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying including through class assemblies, PSHE opportunities in lessons, SMSC Curriculum, the school Vision and the use of School Ambassadors and Year 6 Monitors.

The ethos and working philosophy of Whitehill Junior School means that all staff actively encourage children to have respect for each other and for other people's property. Good and kind/polite behaviour is regularly acknowledged and rewarded. Staff will regularly discuss bullying; this will inform children that we are serious about dealing with bullying and lead to open conversations and increased confidence in children to want to discuss bullying. Staff will reinforce expectations of behaviour as a regular discussion.

All staff at Whitehill welcome every child into the school. Staff are careful not to highlight differences of children or an individual child in a potentially negative way, even if this is done in jest. This gives other children advocacy to use this difference to begin calling names or teasing. Staff are vigilant regarding groups of friends together. Staff must reinforce a general message that children do not have to be friends with everyone else, but they must be respectful of everyone else's feelings.

Children are involved in the prevention of bullying as and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school or class rules
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- 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 bullies are dealt with quickly
- creating an item for the school website.

If a child feels that they are being bullied then there are several procedures that they are encouraged to follow: (not hierarchical)

- Tell a friend
- Tell a member of the Junior Leadership Team
- Tell a teacher or adult whom they feel they can trust
- Go to a Guardian Angel
- Tell a parent or adult at home whom they feel they can trust
- Discuss it as part of their PSHE time
- Ring Childline and follow the advice given

### **Recording of Bullying Incidents**

When an incident of bullying has taken place, staff must be prepared to record and report each incident. In the case of racist bullying, this must be reported to the Headteacher. General incidences of bullying should be recorded and this would include incidents where staff have had to become involved and speak with children, and/or where parents have raised concerns regarding bullying.

Confirmed cases of bullying must be recorded, as with any case of Child protection. All incidents of bullying will be discussed with all relevant staff and parents of the children involved, in order that everyone can be vigilant and that bullying may be prevented from happening in the future.

Incidents of bullying will be reported to and discussed with the Governing Body.

### **Advice to Parents**

As the parent of a child whom you suspect is being bullied:

1. Report bullying incidents to the class teacher in the first instance.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff and the Headteacher notified.
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

### **Do Not:**

1. Attempt to sort the problem out yourself by speaking to the child whom you think may be the bully or by speaking to their parents.
2. Encourage your child to be 'a bully' back.

Both of these will only make the problem much harder to solve.

### **HELP ORGANISATIONS:**

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
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222

Youth Access  
Bullying Online

020 8772 9900  
[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

Visit the Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) for further support, links and advice.