Ashwood Park Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

September 2026

Responsibility	Headteacher
To be reviewed	September 2027

Introduction

At Ashwood Park Primary School we aim to develop a sense of responsibility in children, both for themselves and each other. The responsibility for preventing and dealing with bullying is a collective one.

Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

At Ashwood Park Primary School we agree with Anti-Bullying Alliance's definition of bullying:

"Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological

It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace."

We believe that bullying behaviour can be long-standing or short-lived, that it can take the form of actions or words, and that it can cause physical or mental pain.

<u>The main types of bullying are:</u>

1. physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
2. verbal (name calling, unkind words, teasing)
3. relational bullying (leaving people out, spreading rumours)
4. cyber bullying (on social media sites, messaging)
5. SEND related (targeting special education needs and disabled pupils)
6. sexist / transgender bullying (based on gender)
7. homophobic bullying (negativity related to being 'gay')
8. racist bullying (racist name calling)

We believe that all children have the right to be educated in a happy and caring environment, free from harm. *(Vulnerable pupils, e.g. SEND pupils, LAC, Pupil Premium, may be particularly susceptible to bullying and we endeavour to ensure they are protected from bullying behaviours).*

At Ashwood Park Primary School we aim to fulfil this right by actively preventing bullying.

This policy links to the following policies: Behaviour, E safety, Acceptable Use

Recognising bullying

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 are encouraged to report bullying promptly to a member of staff. All school teaching and support staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy. If bullying is taking place outside the school premises, the school will support those affected as it impacts on well-being in school.

Preventing bullying

We aim to prevent bullying by

- Ensuring that all pupils have access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum, as there are specific areas which promote pupil awareness of bullying. Children learn social skills and share in a curriculum that allows for co-operative learning, discussion and respect for different points of view. A curriculum that recognises achievement and strengthens self-esteem.

- Supervising pupils' at all possible times.

- Sharing concerns for others during assembly and promoting anti bullying regularly

- Holding discussions between children staff and parents so that potential problems are realised and dealt with promptly.

- Involvement of our learning mentors to work with vulnerable children.

- Training staff in school regularly to identify bullying and support those who may be being bullied as well as those displaying bullying behaviours.

- Train pupils to support their peers in the role of anti-bullying ambassadors,

- Develop an anti-bullying steering group, who lead the school's anti-bullying agenda

- Ensuring pupils adhere to the school's Behaviour Policy, displaying co-operation and support for their peers

Dealing with reported bullying issues

If parents think their child may be being bullied, they should contact their child's class teacher or Mrs Lister (DSGL)

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 account of the incident will be recorded and given to the deputy head/ headteacher
- all concerned will be interviewed and information recorded regarding the incident – the perspective and situation relating to the person who may be being bullied and the child displaying bullying behaviours will be sought
- class teachers will be kept informed and if it persists the class teacher will advise the appropriate SLT member/head.
- parents will be kept informed
- bullying incidents logs will be regularly analysed to establish patterns and ensure vulnerable pupils are safe
- punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation will all parties concerned

Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their class teacher or member of staff of their choice
- reassuring the pupil by offering continuous support
- restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Pupils who have displayed bullying behaviours will be helped by:

- discussing what happened and establishing how they have not adhered to the school's Behaviour Policy
- discovering why the pupil became involved, establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- informing parents or carers to help change the attitude of the pupil.

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:

- official warnings to cease offending
- removing the pupil from play time and lunchtimes
- exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- minor fixed-term exclusion
- major fixed-term exclusion
- permanent exclusion.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

For children whose behaviour poses a threat to the safety and/or education of others.

For a case of 'extreme' behaviour, such as a child's poor behaviour leading to a serious incident or re-occurring incidents that have a detrimental effect on the safety and education of the child and others, other forms of sanctions may be considered.

Parents will always be informed of these sanctions. These might include; further loss of for example loss of break / lunch time, being placed on 'behaviour report, removal from class and internal suspension.

Removal will be distinguished from the use of separation spaces (sometimes known as sensory or nurture rooms) for non-disciplinary reasons, e.g. as part of a planned response to help a pupil regulate their emotions. School will ensure the removal location will be an appropriate area of the school and stocked with appropriate resources, is a suitable place to learn and refocus, and is supervised by members of staff.

School will have a clear process for the reintegration of any pupil in removal into the classroom when appropriate and safe to do so.

Removal should be used for the following reasons: a) to maintain the safety of all pupils and to restore stability following an unreasonably high level of disruption; b) to enable disruptive pupils to be taken to a place where education can be continued in a managed environment; and c) to allow the pupil to regain calm in a safe space.

Any removal or internal exclusion school will ensure access to drink, food and toilet facilities are provided. The Head teacher, in consultation with the Governing Body, may also decide to use the following sanctions: Suspension Permanent exclusion.

Suspension and exclusions are a last resort and may be used in response to a serious, persistent breach of the school's behaviour policy. The Head teacher's decision to suspend a child will be made in line with the principles of administration ensuring it is lawful, rational, reasonable, fair and proportionate.

A managed move is used to initiate a process which leads to the transfer of a pupil to another mainstream school permanently. Managed moves should only occur when it is in the pupil's best interests.

Parents have a duty to ensure that their child is not present in a public place in school hours during a suspension unless there is reasonable justification for this. Parents may receive a penalty notice from the local authority if their child is present in a public place during school hours on the specified dates of the suspension.