

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (EDUCATION SERVICES)

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Policy Control/Monitoring

Approved by: (Position in Organisation)	Headteacher (NCS)
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This policy outlines what Northern Counties School, Percy Hedley School and Hedleys College will do to prevent and tackle bullying. The policy has been drawn up through the involvement of the whole school community and we are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture.
- 1.2 Bullying is “Behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017). Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. This includes the same inappropriate and harmful behaviours expressed via digital devices (cyberbullying) such as the sending of inappropriate messages by phone, text, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Instant Messenger, through websites and social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet.
- 1.3 Targeting others is our term for behaviours of concern that hurt or intimidate others in school. Often the pupil targets others without being conscious about it and this may be a response to an un-met need or desire, or could be related to physical discomfort.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 Bullying and targeting others is wrong and damages individuals. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos which is grounded in positive behaviour support in which bullying and targeting others is regarded as unacceptable.
- 2.2 We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety.
- 2.3 This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur, including cyber-bullying.
- 2.4 We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person’s responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

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3 Forms of bullying

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including:

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture.
- Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability).
- Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions.
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic bullying).
- Bullying of young carers, pupil in care or otherwise related to home circumstances.
- Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying.
- Bullying via technology – “cyberbullying”

4 The Role of Governors / Members of Local Adviser Committees (LCAs)

4.1 The Governing Body supports the Headteacher / Principal in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

4.2 The Governing Body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the Headteacher / Principal to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school antibullying strategies.

4.3 The Governing Body responds within ten days to any request from a parent or carer to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases the governing body notifies the Headteacher / Principal and asks them to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

4.4 This anti-bullying policy is the governors’ responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school’s anti-bullying records and by discussion with the Headteacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all pupil involved in bullying incidents.

5 The role of the Headteacher / Principal

5.1 It is the responsibility of the Headteacher / Principal to implement the school antibullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching)

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are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying or other incidents where one or more pupils target another pupil. The Headteacher / Principal reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the antibullying policy on request.

- 5.2 The Headteacher / Principal and Senior Leadership Team ensure that all pupils who have the cognitive ability to understand bullying, know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team draws the attention of pupil to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team may use restorative justice actions to help everyone involved to understand why the behaviour is wrong and how it affects people.
- 5.3 The Headteacher / Principal ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and report all incidents of bullying.
- 5.4 The Headteacher / Principal sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When pupils feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

6 The Role of Staff

- 6.1 Staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They report incidents through CPOMS, and these logs are monitored by the school's Safeguarding Team.
- 6.2 If staff witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the pupil who is being bullied. If a pupil is being bullied over a period of time, then a member of the Senior Leadership Team informs the pupil's parents and carers.
- 6.3 Staff actively support anti-bullying strategies by teaching pupils directly about safeguarding issues and cyber-bullying. Information is regularly sent home to parents and carers to further develop parental awareness of safeguarding issues on the internet and mobile devices.
- 6.4 We keep a record of any bullying incidents on CPOMS. If, as members of staff, we become aware of any bullying / targeting taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately.
- 6.5 This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying / targeting, and support for the pupil who has carried out the bullying. Where appropriate, we spend time talking to the pupil who has bullied / targeted others and may use 'Think sheets' to help them to think through their actions:

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- We explain why the action of the pupil was wrong where this is appropriate and review the pupil's positive behaviour support plans in order to support the pupil to change their behaviour in future.
- If a pupil is repeatedly involved in bullying / targeting other pupils, we inform the Deputy Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team or Headteacher.
- We may invite the pupil's parents and carers into the school to discuss the situation.
- Where appropriate, the Headteacher / Principal may contact external support agencies such as Children's Social Care, or children's mental health services.

6.6 Staff members routinely attend positive behaviour support training: this gives them the skills to know how to promote positive behaviours and how to intervene during behaviours of concern.

6.7 Staff members aim to support all pupil in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all pupils when they are kind or a good friend for example, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying / targeting.

7. Involvement of Pupils We

will:

- Regularly canvas pupils and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying / targeting of others.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying / being targeted.
- Involve pupils in the development of their own positive behaviour support plan.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embed messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Publicise the details of help lines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied / targeted and to those who are bullying / targeting others to address the problems they have.

8 The Role of Parents and Carers

8.1 Parents and carers who are concerned that their child might be being bullied / targeted, or who suspect that their child may be bullying / targeting others, should contact their child's teacher immediately.

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8.2 Parents and carers have a responsibility to support the school’s anti-bullying / targeting policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

9 Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher/Senior Leadership Team. The Headteacher / Principal meets regularly with the Chair of Governors and reports any incidents of bullying.

10 Links with Other School Policies and Practices

This policy links with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour Policy
- Compliments, Comments and Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding and Pupil Protection Policy
- e-Safety (Online Safety)
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

11 Links to Legislation

There are a number of pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying as well as criminal law. These include:

- The Equality Act 2010
- The Pupil Act 1989
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 (September 2022)
- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Pupilline: www.pupilline.org.uk □
- DfE: “Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies”, and “Supporting pupil and young people who are bullied: advice for schools” March 2014:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying> •
- DfE: “No health without mental health”:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-health-withoutmental-health-a-cross-government-outcomes-strategy>
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- NDCS: www.ndcs.org.uk Cyberbullying

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- Pupilnet International: www.pupilnet.com
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk SEND
- DfE: SEND code of practice:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0to-25>

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