

Armfield Academy Anti Bullying Policy 2026-2028

Secondary Policy



Anti-Bullying Policy 2026-2028

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Electronic copies of this plan are available from	Armfield Academy Blackpool
Hard copies of this plan are available from	Armfield Academy Blackpool
Date of next review	July 2028 (as required)
Person responsible for Review	Leona Parkinson

Armfield Academy Anti Bullying Policy 2026-2028

Statement of Intent

Armfield Academy takes bullying seriously. The school's policy is designed (together with other key policies) to maintain a caring and supportive community thereby minimising the incidence of bullying behaviour. Where this does occur, all incidents will be dealt with swiftly in accordance with this policy.

Armfield Academy is committed to working with students and parents to provide a learning environment that is secure and supportive so that all individuals can develop academically and socially free from fear of ridicule, harassment or physical threat.

Incidents of bullying will always be taken seriously and followed up by staff. Parents have an essential role to play in counteracting bullying. Where bullying is clearly established, parents of both victim and perpetrator will always be contacted and the school will seek to involve them in securing solutions.

We recognise that:

- Bullying is "behaviour, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group, physically or emotionally" Safe from bullying in youth activities, DCSF 2009.
- One person or a group can bully others.
- Bullying can occur either face – to - face between individuals or groups or online, using information technology, such as computers or mobile phones.
- Bullying can include:
 - verbal teasing or making fun of someone
 - excluding children from games and conversations
 - putting pressure on other adults or children not to be friends with the person who is being bullied
 - spreading hurtful rumours or passing round inappropriate photographs, images and/or drawings
 - shouting at or verbally abusing someone
 - stealing or damaging someone's belongings
 - making threats

- forcing someone to do something embarrassing, harmful or dangerous
 - harassment on the basis of race, gender, sexuality or disability
 - physical or sexual assault (note: all sexual incidents and all but very minor or accidental physical incidents constitute abuse and must be dealt with in accordance with child protection and safeguarding procedures)
- Bullying causes real distress. It can affect a person's health and development and, at the extreme, can cause significant harm.
 - People are often targeted by bullies because they appear different from others
 - We all have a role to play in preventing and putting a stop to bullying

The purpose of this policy is:

- To prevent bullying from happening in our organisation, as much as possible
- When bullying does happen, to make sure it is stopped as soon as possible and that those involved receive the support they need
- To ensure that if bullying recurs, further action is taken. This is likely to include escalation of sanctions
- To provide information to all staff, volunteers, children and their families about what we should all do to prevent and deal with bullying.

We will seek to prevent bullying by:

1. Developing high standards of behaviour that set out how all members of FCAT academies are expected to behave, both in face-to-face contact and online.
2. Assisting all members of the academy community through pastoral support and Early Help, especially those pupils and students new to the academy and joining at 'non-routine' times.
3. Holding regular discussions with staff, volunteers, children, young people and families who are linked to Armfield Academy to ensure that they understand our anti-bullying policy.

These discussions will focus on:

- everyone's shared responsibility to look after each other and uphold the behaviour code
- giving people a chance to discuss their feelings and be listened to
- respecting the fact that we are all different
- encouraging good relationships
- dealing with problems in a positive way
- identifying the most appropriate form of support that is available

4. Ensuring that complaint and escalation procedures are clear
5. Making sure that staff, volunteers, children, young people, parents and carers have clear information about our anti-bullying policy, complaints procedure, code of behaviour and anti-bullying procedure.
6. Appointing Student Ambassadors/ Senior student team to work with students across the Academy to promote our zero-tolerance culture.
7. Providing meeting spaces and activities (e.g. Student Services, lunch clubs) for students to access every day.

When bullying occurs, we will respond to it by:

- Having easily accessible support for students and families.
- Having clear anti-bullying procedures in place.
- Providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of bullying, including racial, sexist, homophobic and sexual bullying.
- Addressing the issue from the point of view of the person being bullied, the bully, any bystanders and Armfield Academy as a whole.
- Reviewing the plan developed to address the bullying, in order to ensure that the problem has been resolved.
- Avoiding sanctions that make the individuals look or feel foolish in front of others.
- Ensuring that all incidents are reported accordingly.
- Quickly addressing any issues that are reported.
- Dealing with incidents consistently.
- Ensuring that everyone involved provides a written account where appropriate and provides copies of any relevant evidence.
- Ensuring that any relevant information is documented.
- Sanctioning perpetrators appropriately and signposting relevant support with the intention of preventing any reoccurrence and helping them to understand the error in their actions.

We recognise that bullying may often be a manifestation of the perpetrators own problems which the Academy will endeavour to offer support to resolve as it does for all students with a trauma informed approach.

- Increasing the sanctions issued to any student who is a persistent perpetrator, which may include suspension from the academy.
- Using a restorative approach for victims and perpetrators, facilitated by pastoral team colleagues, Phase Leaders and/or the Behaviour Support Team.
- Arranging support for victims and/or perpetrators from outside agencies. This could for instance include youth workers and/or counsellors.

Staff training

- The Academy advises staff and the Academy Council of their responsibility to intervene in and/or report bullying incidents
- The Academy ensures that all staff are sufficiently equipped to deal with bullying, including identification of potential indicators of bullying such as victims being persistently late, having mysteriously lost belongings, being careless in their work, appearing isolated from peers or seeming 'withdrawn'
- All members of staff are trained in restorative justice and de-escalation techniques
- Staff have regular safeguarding and trauma training. Training for students is delivered through assemblies, special events and the PSHE and pastoral programmes of study

Our Academy pocket principles' Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready To Learn' is used as a reference to underpin the development of good relationships between all members of the school community and is continually displayed and referred to regularly by form tutors and school leaders promoting anti-bullying behaviour, kindness and respect for one another.

The Academy:

- Makes detailed transition arrangements for new pupils and students.
- Actively promotes anti - bullying through pastoral (Tutorial), assemblies, special events and student voice.
- Ensures that areas where bullying may occur outside of class time are adequately staffed and effectively supervised.
- Maintains a zero-tolerance approach to violence and all other types of bullying.
- Provides a range of mechanisms for children to report bullying issues.
- Completes surveys with pupils to obtain their opinions on the success of anti-bullying work.
- Celebrates differences and promotes mutual respect and all British Values.
- Expects, encourages and rewards good behaviour.

Parental involvement:

- The Academy promotes a whole academy approach to anti-bullying by communicating this policy to staff, students and parents and the wider community.
- The anti bullying policy is available to all parents should they wish to obtain a copy. It is on the school website and we can print copies for any parents who do not have access to it.
- Parents reporting bullying incidents either by telephone or email are responded to promptly and feedback on progress and actions are provided as soon as possible (within 24 hours, unless there are extenuating circumstances).
- Parents of perpetrators are contacted and their support sought to prevent further incidents from occurring.
- The police are consulted if necessary.
- Initial contact with home is via the pastoral team. Where relevant matters can be referred on to the AHT with responsibility for behaviour or any other leaders, ultimately to the principal if all other avenues have been exhausted.

Anti Bullying:

- The Academy website provides further advice and guidance for parents and carers, including a section on e-safety, cyber-bullying and social media. This includes links to other sources of help, Parent e-safety and safeguarding updates Monitoring and review.
- Quantitative data is compiled each half term.
- Data is analysed for trends, sub cohorts and to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-bullying interventions.
- Information is provided to the Senior Leadership Team and Academy Council each half term.
- This policy is formally reviewed every 2 years and continually monitored for effectiveness.

The Armfield Academy pastoral lead is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.

- Recognises that bullying is behaviour, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group, physically or emotionally and that this can take many forms, including face-to-face between individuals or groups and/or online.

- Is committed to working with students and parents to provide a learning environment that is secure and supportive so that all individuals can develop academically and socially free from fear of ridicule, harassment or physical threat.

- Takes all bullying seriously and will maintain a caring and supportive community minimising the incidence of bullying behaviour within a zero tolerance approach.

Incidents of bullying will always be followed up by staff. Parents have an essential role to play in counteracting bullying and will be informed and involved.

All instances of bullying will be dealt with swiftly in accordance with this policy. Examples of potential bullying behaviours and the actions which will be taken by Armfield Academy to prevent, minimise and eradicate bullying are set out in the full.

Armfield Academy Anti-Bullying Policy.

Armfield Academy will seek to prevent bullying through:

- the promotion of anti-bullying behaviour.
- clear anti-bullying procedures.
- our Academy Code of Behaviour.
- staff and student training (Anti-Bullying Ambassadors).
- appropriate sanctions.
- pastoral support to all members of the academy community, especially those most in need.
- high profile of anti-bullying initiatives and systems with children, staff and parents.
- listening to and providing appropriate support for individual students.
- good relationships and a restorative approach.
- dealing with problems in a consistent manner.
- effective leadership, monitoring and review.