

Anti-Bullying Policy

December 2021

Introduction

At Arno Vale Junior School, we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for learning, for all our pupils to allow them to improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential. This includes encouraging open discussion around differences between people, challenging prejudice and celebrating diversity.

We recognise that a school has a responsibility to understand the community they serve and to respond to identified concerns including proactively teaching children about potential threats to their health and safety. We will therefore adopt a contextual approach to bullying and peer on peer abuse, working with families and outside agencies where appropriate.

We expect pupils to act safely and feel safe in school, including that they understand the issues relating to all forms of bullying and that they feel confident to seek support from school should they feel they or others are unsafe. We would also want parents/carers to feel confident that their children are safe and cared for in school and that incidents, if/when they do arise, are dealt with promptly and effectively.

The school is aware of its legal obligations including the Equality Act 2010. This means as well as considering the context of any concerns which need addressing, we will consider where a pupil may have a protected characteristic. This will include ensuring any action taken by the school reflects their needs and that any actions taken by the school do not put the pupil at greater harm.

Policy Development

This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from:

- Members of staff – a consultation group was set up to review existing policy and practice.
- Governors – a draft policy was presented to governors for discussion.
- Parents/carers – parents/carers have been encouraged to contribute in the form of a written consultation sent out by email.
- Children and young people – class ambassadors will develop a student friendly version to be displayed in each classroom.

This policy is available online at www.arnovale.co.uk. Paper copies can also be requested from the school office.

Roles and responsibilities

The Head Teacher – Has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies and appointing an Anti-bullying coordinator who will have general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead in our school is Andrew Rossington

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all, however all staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of who to report to and how to report any safeguarding concerns.

The Anti-bullying Coordinator in our school is: Chris Baker

Their responsibilities are: -

- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant local agencies
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Managing bullying incidents
- Managing the reporting and recording of bullying incidents
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Coordinating strategies for preventing bullying behaviour

The nominated Governor with the responsibility for Anti-bullying is: Daniel Buxton

Definition of Bullying

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.

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/what-bullying/aba-definition-bullying

Behaviour often associated with bullying

Baiting

Baiting can be used in bullying both on and offline. It can be used to bully someone to get 'a rise' out of them and it can be used to antagonise those who might be bullying others to get them to bully. Sometimes baiting is used secretly to try and get a person to explode in a rage or react negatively/loudly so that they get into trouble.

Banter

The dictionary describes banter as: 'the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks'

Bullying is often justified as being just banter. It may start as banter, but some types of banter are bullying and need to be addressed as bullying.

Types of Banter

- Friendly Banter- There's no intention to hurt and everyone knows its limits
- Ignorant Banter- crosses the line with no intention to hurt, will often say sorry.
- Malicious Banter- Done to humiliate a person-often in public

Peer on Peer Abuse

This can include but is not limited to: -

- Bullying including cyberbullying
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment
- Physical abuse
- Sexting
- Initiation/hazing, violence and rituals

(See Peer on Peer Abuse Policy for full details)

Sexist and sexual bullying

Sexual Harassment –unwanted contact of a sexual nature which can occur on and offline. This behaviour is considered to violate a child's dignity and /or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and /or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment.

Again, this needs to be considered by cross referencing with the Peer on Peer policy but the initial response from staff will be the same as any reported bullying incident and dealt with in a contextual way.

Occasionally an incident may be deemed to be bullying even if the behaviour has not been repeated or persistent – if it fulfils all other descriptions of bullying. This possibility should be considered, particularly in cases of hate crime related bullying and cyberbullying and peer on peer abuse. If the target or alleged perpetrator might be in danger, then intervention is urgently required including a safeguarding referral.

What does bullying look like?

Bullying behavior can be:

- Physical – pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.
- Emotional – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- Online /cyber – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- Indirect - Can include the exploitation of individuals such as false friendships, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and radicalisation.

Although bullying can occur between individuals it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the 'bystanders' or 'accessories'.

Bullying can take place between:

- young people
- young people and staff
- between staff
- individuals or groups

Why are children and young people bullied?

Specific types of bullying include:

Prejudice Related Bullying

Under the Equalities Act 2010 it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

- age

- being or becoming a trans person
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or having a child
- disability
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, including Gypsy, Roma, Traveller heritage
- religion, belief or lack of religion/belief
- sex /gender
- sexual orientation

These are called 'protected characteristics'

As part of the requirement on schools to promote fundamental British values, schools must proactively challenge derogatory and discriminatory language and behaviour including that which is racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disabilist in nature. We will record these types of bullying, even that which represents a one-off incident.

Other vulnerable groups include

- young carers
- looked after children
- bullying related to home circumstances
- bullying related to appearance or health

Although the above do not currently receive protection under the Equality Act 2010, bullying for these reasons is just as serious. We have a designated lead for young carers and looked after children who will liaise with staff and children to ensure that they are supported and know where to go for help.

There is no hierarchy of bullying – all forms should be taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Prejudice Related Language

Racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disabilist language includes terms of abuse used towards people because of their race/ethnicity/nationality; because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or trans, or are perceived to be, or have a parent/carer, sibling, or friend who is; because they have a learning or physical disability. Such language is generally used to refer to something or someone as inferior. This may also be used to taunt young people who are perceived to be different in some way or their friends, family members or their parents/carers are perceived to be different.

Dismissing such language as banter is not helpful as it is being used to mean inferior, bad, broken or wrong. We will challenge the use of prejudice related language in our school even if it appears to be being used without any intent. Persistent use of prejudice related language and/or bullying will be dealt with as with any other form of bullying.

Where does bullying take place?

Bullying is not confined to the school premises. It also persists outside school, on the journey to and from school and in the local community and may continue into Further Education.

The school acknowledges its responsibilities to support families if bullying occurs off the premises.

Cyberbullying

The increasing use of digital technology and the internet has also provided new and particularly intrusive ways for bullies to reach their victims.

Cyberbullying can take many forms and bullying online can often start in school and then be progressed online or start online and influence behaviour in school.

Whilst most incidents of Cyberbullying occur outside school, we will offer support and guidance to parents/carers and their children who experience online bullying and will treat Cyberbullying with the same severity as any other form of bullying.

Cyberbullying can include: -

- hacking into someone's accounts/sites
- Posting prejudice /hate messages
- Impersonating someone on line
- Public posting of images
- Exclusion
- Threats and manipulation
- Stalking

We will ensure that our children are taught safe ways to use the internet (see our online safety policy) and encourage good online behaviour.

Reporting and responding to bullying

Our school has clear systems to report bullying for the whole school community (including staff, parents/carers, children and young people). This includes those who are the victims of bullying or have witnessed bullying behaviour (bystanders).

- Children and young people in school including bystanders:
Children are reminded regularly that any concerns should be raised with their class teacher or any member of staff that they feel comfortable talking to. Procedures outlined below will then be followed.
- Parents/carers: Concerns should be raised with a member of staff. This can be done in person, over the phone or by email. Procedures outlined below will then be followed.
- All staff and visitors: Concerns should be raised with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Procedures

All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated involving all parties. The staff team is aware of and follows the same procedures. Staff will:

- Interview all parties including the target, alleged bully and all others involved. Findings will be discussed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- Inform parents/carers as appropriate.
- Consider the context of individual cases including any protected characteristics for the target and alleged bully and how this may influence any actions taken.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Be clear that responses may vary according to the type of bullying and may involve other agencies where appropriate.
- Follow up all reported incidents, keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation and parents/carers to check the effectiveness of actions and reassess if necessary.
- Have a clear complaints' procedure for parents/carers who are not satisfied with the school's actions.
- Have a range of follow up responses and support appropriate to the situation for all involved (e.g. restorative approach, circle of friends, individual work with target, alleged perpetrator, bystanders and others affected by the bullying).
- Liaise with the wider community if the bullying is taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyberbullying or hate crime.
- Liaise with the DSL if there are any safeguarding issues to consider - who may refer on to the MASH.
- Liaise with the lead for looked after children where appropriate.
- Refer to the Nottinghamshire County Council Pathways to Provision and complete an EHAF if appropriate.
- Log any of the above actions taken on CPOMS.
- Report any concerns relating to staff to the Headteacher in line with procedures detailed in the Nottinghamshire Code of Conduct.

Recording bullying and evaluating the policy

Bullying incidents will be recorded by the member of staff who deals with the incident and logged on CPOMS, which is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and stored in accordance with GPDR.

Information stored in school will be used to ensure individual incidents are followed up. It will also be used to identify trends and inform preventative work in school and development of the policy. This information will be discussed by staff in regular staff meetings.

The policy will be reviewed and updated every two years.

Strategies for preventing bullying

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and welfare of our pupils we at Arno Vale Junior School have developed the following strategies to promote positive behaviour and discourage bullying behaviour.

- The school actively promotes the celebration of difference and diversity as part of our core values.
- The school takes part in Anti-Bullying week annually in November and Safer Internet Day in February.
- Weekly RSHE/PSHE lessons using the JIGSAW scheme of work form a key part of the curriculum.
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as cyber bullying and internet safety.
- Class ambassadors elected to act as positive role models and lead initiatives.
- Staff and young people are actively encouraged and supported to challenge prejudice related behaviour relating to all protected characteristics and vulnerable groups
- Ensuring that images and materials used reflect all groups in British society
- Reactive programmes for those involved in bullying such as restorative conversations.
- Small group work and specific initiatives for those who have been bullied or are displaying bullying behaviour.
- Parent information on the school website and in weekly bulletins.

In addition, the following support is in place for all school staff:

- Staff training and development for all staff including those involved in lunchtime and before and after school activities.
- Encouraging all staff to model expected behaviour.
- Staff training around curriculum delivery of PSHE related curriculum areas.
- Anti-bullying online training modules for all staff.

Links with other policies

Policy	Why
Peer on Peer Policy	Linking bullying especially sexualised behaviour, exploitation (sexual, criminal and radicalisation)
Behaviour Policy	Rewards and sanctions, Codes of conduct
Safeguarding Policy	Child protection and Contextualised Safeguarding
E-safety and Acceptable use policy	Cyber bullying and online safety
Equalities policy	Prejudice related crime (homophobia, race, religion and culture and SEN/disability) Protected Characteristics
Confidentiality Policy	Reporting and recording
PSHE/Citizenship	Strategies to prevent bullying as part of a structured PSHE programme
Complaints' Policy	Guidelines to make a complaint if families are not happy with the school's response