Ashurst Wood Primary School

Anti–Bullying and Friendship Policy



The little School with a Big Heart

**Updated: Feb 2025**

**Review Date: Spring 1 2026**

ASHURST WOOD SCHOOL

Friendship and Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy will refer to ‘the person bullying’ and ‘the person being bullied rather than ‘bully’ and ‘victim’, both of which can be defined as negative labelling.

**Our Aims**

At Ashurst Wood Primary School we take all forms of conflict, friendship problems, and bullying behaviour seriously.

Our aims are:

* To provide a safe and secure environment for all children in our care.
* To create a happy atmosphere in which both parents and staff work together for the welfare of the students.
* To ensure everyone is mutually valued and respected regardless of gender, race, age, beliefs and ability.
* To encourage children to adopt agreed standards of behaviour and values in order to develop a sense of self-discipline and to take responsibility for their own actions.

**Definition of Bullying Behaviour**

We acknowledge that both friendship problems and bullying behaviour can be upsetting and unpleasant but it is important to distinguish between the two, as the responses to friendship problems will be different to the strategies used to address bullying behaviour.

Friendship problems may be an occasional incident where both children disagree and find it difficult to resolve the disagreement without adult help. It is unlikely to be repeated behaviour and may even be accidental. Both children are likely to make an effort to resolve the problem. However, we recognise that repeated friendship problems can sometimes lead to bullying behaviour.

Bullying behaviour is defined as - **“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”** (Anti-bullying Alliance).

Bullying can take many forms:

 **Physical** bullying (hitting, punching, finger jabbing, any inappropriate touching, pinching, jostling, breaking or taking property)

 **Verbal** bullying (name calling, put downs, threats, teasing, ridiculing, belittling, excessive criticism or sarcasm).

 **Indirect** bullying (rumours or stories, exclusion from a group, shunning, invading privacy, graffiti designed to embarrass, withholding friendship or affection).

 **Cyber** bullying (sending nasty phone calls, text messages or e-mails/chat rooms). Linked to schools Acceptable Use Policy.

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Some bullying is done because a child is deemed to belong to a certain group. This has been labelled ‘prejudice based bullying’, and includes homophobic bullying, racist bullying, sexual or gender bullying, and bullying of students with learning or other disabilities. (Linked to Equalities Policy)

**Strategies for preventing bullying behaviour - Whole school approach**

* Issues surrounding friendships and bullying behaviour are taught through the learning for life elements of the E4S curriculum (SMSC / SRE / citizenship ). Children are taught to explore some of the ups and downs of relationships, including the positive aspects and benefits of friendships and the negative aspects of relational conflict. Assemblies are used to discuss bullying and raise children’s awareness of what bullying looks like, and how they can respond, as well as the issues mentioned above.
* The School Rules (be ready, be respectful, be safe) will be upheld at all times. All staff will monitor behaviour and intervene when it becomes inappropriate in order to prevent bullying from developing. Staff on playground duty will inform class teachers of any incidents and if significant will record on a behaviour form which is then passed to the head teacher.
* ~~All classes have house point charts. Positive behaviour by children towards each other is rewarded on these.~~
* ~~Celebration Assemblies recognise children who show thought for others through the use of Awesome certificates and house point certificates~~

**Strategies for responding to bullying behaviour**

Where bullying does occur this will be followed by an immediate and appropriate response, including the use of disciplinary sanctions where necessary.

Early identification is the most effective way of minimising bullying behaviour and the effects on the person being bullied. We also acknowledge that the person doing the bullying needs to understand that their behaviour is unacceptable and must stop. They may also need support to change their behaviour and explore the underlying reasons for bullying.

Children are encouraged to report any negative behaviour, even if they are

not sure whether it is bullying. They can do this through:

* Speaking to their teacher/TA or any member of support staff.
* Speaking to a parent/other adult who then may contact the school in any of the ways listed.
* Speaking to their School Council rep or a Positive Play Leader.
* Reporting to parents, who pass on concerns to teachers.

**When bullying is known to have happened or be ongoing**

When any incident takes place between members of a class, the teacher will investigate the issue. Should bullying be suspected the class teacher will discuss the incident(s) with the child being bullied. It is important that they are listened to and believed.

The incident will then be discussed with the child engaging in bullying.

Information will be gathered from witnesses to explain what they saw.

The Headteacher/Deputy Head will be informed.

Sanctions in line with the school’s Good Behaviour and Discipline Policy will be used where appropriate. These might include:

* Official warnings to cease offending
* Withdrawal of certain school privileges
* Suspension
* Permanent exclusion

Parents of those involved will be informed of any action taken. Records will be kept on students’ files.

Where a child or group of children deny involvement in bullying behaviour the children concerned will be observed and monitored. The child being bullied may be asked to record and report any incidents which cause them concern.

**Recording**

All incidents of bullying and reported bullying will be recorded on ‘My concern’.

The role of parents

Parents who are concerned that their child might be bullied, or who

suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact

the school immediately. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the

school’s complaints procedure, as detailed on the school website

www.ashurstwoodprimaryschool.co.uk .

Parents have a responsibility to support the school’s anti-bullying policy,

actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

**Complaints**

The Governing Body has established a formal complaints procedure and this

may be used by a parent/carer if necessary.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

This document will be monitored and evaluated regularly and updated to take account of new Government and local guidance, and the views of the whole school community.

Appendix 1 – Bullying Reporting Form

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|  | Bullying Reporting Form |
| Secure the safety of the ‘target child’ |  | Take action | Record |
| Focus on addressing the behaviours |  | Identify the bullying group | Take action | Monitor  |
| What are the attitudes and values underpinning the behaviour? |  | Develop a wider resolution plan with the student and the parent  |  | Review  |
|  |  | What are the outcomes you want to see? Where is the data? |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date:  | Reported by: | Received by: |
| Children involved  |  |
| Description of concern  |  |
| Actions to be taken including time scale. |  |

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| --- |
| Name : Date :  |
| Daily checking in Diary |
|  | Morning | Afternoon |
| Monday  | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif |
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| Tuesday  | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif |
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| Wednesday | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif |
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| Thursday | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif |
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| Friday | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif | http://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gifhttp://www.greatestcoloringbook.com/raw_gif/happyface100BW.gif | http://humandiagram.info/wp-content/uploads/Printable-Kids-Face-Body-Outline-Picture.png |  | https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcT89Bg6BvimO5WcxxPyJGcQ8xOGSgTeHAEZwVSB5JJ4c77eG3OOYQ | http://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gifhttp://content.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/emotions/girl-sad-face-black-white-thumb.gif |
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| What are you going to do to help things become better? |
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| Is there anything else that you would like to say about the situation? |
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