

# KIRKBURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Anti-Bullying Strategy



**Responsibility:** Head of Key Stage 3

**Last reviewed on:** September 2020

**Next review due by:** September 2022

**Approved by:** Governing body

## **Introduction**

"Providing safe and happy places to learn is essential to achieving school improvement, raising achievement and attendance, promoting equality and diversity, and ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the school community."  
(DfE, 2007).

Kirkburton Middle School is a school in which young people flourish both academically and socially. We aim to foster a healthy and safe community where individuals take responsibility for themselves and show respect for others emphasising the importance of positive relationships amongst all members of the school community.

## **School Objectives**

- To prevent, de-escalate and/or stop any continuation of harmful behaviour.
- To react to bullying incidents in a reasonable, proportionate and consistent way.
- To safeguard the pupil who has experienced bullying and to trigger sources of support.
- To apply disciplinary sanctions to the pupil causing the bullying and ensure they learn from the experience, possibly through multi-agency support.

## **Policy Aims**

- All pupils, parents, staff and governors should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- Staff and governors should follow the school policy when bullying is reported or suspected.
- All pupils and parents should know what bullying is and inform a member of staff if bullying arises.
- The Academy will always take bullying seriously. We use a range of proactive and reactive strategies to combat and prevent bullying.

## **Statement of intent**

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Kirkburton Middle School. We are committed to ensuring that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment, without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a 'Tell Someone' school. At our school words such as 'snitch' or 'grass' are banned; instead our pupils are taught how to be good citizens and to stand up for what is right. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

## **What is bullying?**

Bullying is any behaviour, which is deliberately intended to hurt, threaten or frighten another person or group of people. It is repeated and usually unprovoked and can continue for a prolonged period of time. It always reflects an imbalance and abuse of power. It is important that it must not be confused with the usual childhood/teenage squabbles and arguments where individuals “fall out” with one another.

### **Bullying can be:**

- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic – because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber – all areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities.
- Disability/SEN – because of, or focusing on a disability or special educational need.
- Home circumstance – targeting individuals who are looked after children or because of a particular home circumstance.

Bullying can therefore constitute any of the above activities within the context of the definition provided. Bullying may occur to anyone and this policy is inclusive of the bullying of school staff, whether by pupils, parents or other staff. (Members of the school workforce suffering from or concerned about bullying may also contact their trade union or professional association for support and advice).

Bullying can seriously damage a person’s confidence and sense of self-worth, and they will often feel that they are at fault in some way. Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness or taking unusual absences. There may be evidence in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. These signs and symptoms may indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

### **Reporting Procedures**

If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be taken seriously and dealt with as quickly as possible by the member of staff who has been approached. A clear account of the incident will be recorded and passed to the Head of Key Stage.

- Heads of Key Stage will investigate the incident by interviewing all concerned and record outcomes on the files of those involved.
- Form tutors and subject staff will be kept informed and asked to monitor the behaviour of the pupils concerned.
- Parents will be kept informed and are discouraged from taking matters into their own hands and should not approach a suspected pupil but speak to a member of staff.
- Each incident of actual or alleged bullying will be unique in its representation and its level of impact on the individuals concerned. Therefore, it is important that the school is given the opportunity to tailor a strategy to address the situation and to support the bullied pupil according to the particular incident/s.
- Pupils who are victims of bullying will be offered the opportunity to discuss their experience with their form tutor or another member of staff, be offered support in terms of to restore self-esteem and build confidence and have the use of a supervised room for as long as needed.
- Pupils who have bullied will be helped by; discussing what happened, discovering why the pupil became involved and establishing a sense of wrong-doing. Parents/carers will be informed to help change the attitude and behaviour of the pupil.
- In agreement with both parties involved there will also be the opportunity to rebuild relationships, involving a restorative 'chat' mediated by a member of staff as a way of resolving disputes.

### **Response to bullying**

Disciplinary measures will be applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, taking account of any special educational needs or disabilities that the pupils may have and taking into account the needs of vulnerable pupils. It is also important to consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves.

### **The following disciplinary steps may be taken:**

- Official warning to cease offending
- Exclusion from certain areas of the school premises or certain activities
- Detentions
- Referral to senior staff and/or external agencies e.g. Education Welfare Officer, Police Liaison Officer.
- Internal fixed term exclusion (inclusion)
- External fixed term or permanent exclusion.

### **Bullying Outside School Premises**

Headteachers have a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of the school premises. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be

investigated and acted on. The Headteacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police.

## **Prevention**

As a school we take bullying seriously. We use a range of proactive strategies to prevent bullying. These include;

- Effective school leadership that promotes an open and honest anti-bullying ethos.
- Use of curriculum opportunities, in particular tutor periods and PSHE classes where issues of diversity are discussed and anti-bullying messages are drawn out.
- Use of opportunities throughout the school calendar and at certain times of the school day to raise awareness of the negative consequences of bullying e.g. Anti-Bullying Week in November of each year
- Whole school assemblies.
- Pupil surveys.
- Poster campaigns.
- Improved supervision in potential problem areas.
- Peer mentoring and Buddy Schemes.
- Review of general and specific staff induction and continuing professional development to ensure staff training reflects the anti-bullying policy and practice of the school.

## **Roles and responsibilities for anti-bullying**

Everyone involved in the life of the school must take responsibility for promoting a common anti-bullying approach and report all incidents of bullying. However, there are people who are responsible within school for the anti-bullying policy.

### **Governors**

The Headteacher is responsible for implementing the Anti-Bullying Policy. The Pastoral Lead and the Safeguarding Leads are responsible for monitoring the policy and anti-bullying strategies.

### **Complaints procedures**

If parents are still concerned about specific bullying issues or are unhappy about how a certain incident has been dealt with then there is a complaints procedure, which is available on the school website. Parents should contact the Headteacher in the first instance.