

Anti-bullying policy

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Rationale

Our principal purpose at Milton C of E Primary School is to serve our communities by providing a stimulating and challenging education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our school encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience they offer to all our pupils as stewards of God's Creation.

This document is part of the schools' policies and procedures which have been developed and adapted in order to enable all members of the school communities – governors, parents, pupils, staff and visitors – to be able to contribute positively in making the mission statement a reality.



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Policies have been produced and adopted by the Governing Body in order to ensure that the Governing Body meets its legal obligations and provides the maximum support for the mission of the schools.

Procedures have been developed and adopted in order to aid the safe and supportive day-to-day running of the school whilst ensuring that all the children are to benefit from and enjoy the educational opportunities that come from the school's mission.

Mission Statement

At Milton C of E Primary School all pupils, staff, volunteers and visitors will be offered equal opportunities regardless of race, beliefs, gender, disability, sexual orientation or any additional needs in accordance with our vision:

'Life in all its fullness' – John 10:10

Adaptations to teaching and learning will be made in order to ensure that all pupils are given the best possible learning conditions and any actions or circumstances that raise Safeguarding concerns will be investigated and addressed as a matter of urgency. Any Safeguarding or equal opportunity concerns should be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The school takes great pride in our friendly atmosphere and the shared, core Christian values which all members of the school communities (both staff and pupils) show towards each other.

- Love and community
- Courage and perseverance
- Friendship and respect
- Curiosity and wisdom

This considerate behaviour is encouraged at all times. We celebrate the fact that everyone in our community may be different and have different points of view, not that they are better or worse than anyone else.

The school must be safe, friendly and secure places to each individual, and this cannot be so for any individual who is in any way bullied. The schools' objectives are to promote and encourage the maintenance of a friendly atmosphere.

PRINCIPLES

- Pupils have a right to learn free from intimidation and fear.
- The needs of the victim are paramount.
- Schools will not tolerate bullying behaviour.





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- Bullied pupils will be listened to.
- Reported incidents will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is an act of aggression, causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to someone. It can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, making gestures, extortion and exclusion. It is an abuse of power. It can be planned and organised, or it may be unintentional. It may be perpetrated by individuals or by groups of pupils. Bullying usually occurs over a prolonged period of time rather than being a single, aggressive incident.

- Physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting at another pupil.
- Interfering with another pupil's property, by stealing, hiding or damaging it.
- Using offensive names when addressing another pupil.
- Teasing or spreading rumours about another pupil or his/her family.
- Belittling another pupil's abilities and achievements.
- Writing offensive notes or graffiti about another pupil.
- Excluding another pupil from a group activity.
- Ridiculing another pupil's appearance, way of speaking or personal mannerisms.
- Misusing technology (internet or mobiles) to hurt or humiliate another person.

Types of Bullying

Cyber-Bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual bullying', which can occur in and outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen beyond the school day into home and private space, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content.

Racist Bullying

This refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that make the person feel unwelcome, marginalised and excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, faith, community, national origin or national status.

Homophobic Bullying

This occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual people.

Vulnerable Groups





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We recognise that some groups of pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Looked After Children
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
- Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children from ethnic minorities
- Children entitled to Free School Meals
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transsexual

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The Responsibilities of Staff

Our staff will

- Foster our pupils' self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others
- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils.
- Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is bullied and to the bully and the importance of telling a teacher about bullying when it happens.
- Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying.
- Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them.
- Report suspected cases of bullying on CPOMs and to the designated safeguarding lead.
- Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying, and report back promptly and fully on the action which has been taken.
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures.

The Responsibilities of Pupils

We expect our pupils to:

- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity.
- Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so.





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- Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances.

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should:

- Not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets.

The Responsibilities of Parents

We ask our parents to support their children and the school by:

- Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying.
- Advising their children to report any bullying to their class teacher and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other pupils.
- Advising their children not to retaliate violently to any forms of bullying.
- Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken;
- Keep a written record of any reported instances of bullying
- Informing the school of any suspected bullying, even if their children are not involved;
- Co-operating with the school, if their children are accused of bullying, try to ascertain the truth. And point out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves.

The Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governors will:

- Support the Head Teacher 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.
- Monitor the incidents of bullying that occur, and review the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

The Responsibilities of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher will:

- Implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The Head Teacher will report to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.





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- Ensure that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is an unacceptable behaviour in our school. The Head Teacher will draw the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Head Teacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.
- Ensure that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.
- Set out a school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly, welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.
- Ensure that the curriculum delivered in school (PSHE, RSE and Computing) allows the children to develop their understanding of bullying, how to recognise bullying and provides them with strategies to report and deal with any incidents of bullying.

The Responsibilities of All

Everyone should:

- Work together to combat and, hopefully in time, to eradicate bullying.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Milton C of E Primary School take very seriously any claims or incidents of any form of bullying. We recognise the importance of dealing with any hint of bullying as quickly as possible to ensure all children feel they are important, safe and cared for. The following are strategies to ensure this happens:

- Intervening immediately with any evidence of bullying;
- Rigorously applying the Behaviour Policy;
- Awareness of possible effect on children withdrawn from class for special needs support;
- Promoting positive behaviour, for example verbal praise, encouragement and gratitude, public recognition of positive behaviour / effort through awards in Celebration Assembly such as Milton Manners;
- Demonstrating supportive relationships by adult role models;
- Providing open lines of communication, whereby pupils and adults know that their concerns will be listened to sympathetically;
- Providing opportunities for group / class discussion in order to see the other person's perspective on a situation e.g. circle time, through the PSHE curriculum;
- Raising the ability to regulate and understand emotions through the Zones of Regulation;
- Taking part in Anti-Bullying Week each year;
- Teaching eSafety;
- Further support for children through work alongside our mental health lead.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

We will respond to a bullying incident by closely following the steps set out in our Behaviour Policy.





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In addition, we will:

- Keep detailed records using CPOMs to log our concerns.
- Contact parents/carers of all pupils concerned in the bullying incident.
- Investigate.
- Feedback to those concerned.
- Take additional sanctions as deemed necessary.
- Contact relevant professionals for additional support

Together we can stop bullying, by listening to the children and following their rules and guidance.

