



# The Acorns School

## Anti-Bullying Policy

### Statement of Intent

The staff and Management of Acorns are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. When bullying occurs, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

### What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional Abuse- being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Coercion/grooming - initiation/hazing type violence and rituals
- Physical Abuse - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist Abuse - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual abuse - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (also known as teenage relationship abuse)
- Upskirting - which is a criminal offence, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm
- Homophobic Abuse - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber abuse -All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging & calls and other apps and platforms, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera &video facilities
- Peer on Peer Abuse as defined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education-2025)
- Child on Child Abuse will be dealt with through The Acorns School Safeguarding policy and Behaviour Policy.

## **Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?**

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

## **Objectives of this Policy**

- All members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All members of SLT and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of /anxious when due to leave for school
- doesn't want to go on the school transport
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in schoolwork
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home hungry (dinner taken)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable

- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

## Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. Incidents will be recorded by staff
3. Serious or persistent incidents to be reported to SLT.
4. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
5. If necessary and appropriate, police/other involved agencies will be consulted
6. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying prevented.
7. All efforts will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour. The pupil's (bully and victim) key worker will be an important facilitator and help pupils focus for the strategies that will be employed.

## Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, a risk assessment may be carried out, and suspension/exclusion may be considered.
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled: Restorative Justice is a cornerstone within all policies and procedures at The Acorns
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## Prevention

Maintaining and developing the strong ethos at The Acorns School of mutual respect and support is the foundation for the prevention of bullying. This ethos is supported by:

- The consistent implementation of our Behaviour Code/Policy and Reward system.
- Involvement of the pupils in implementing and reviewing the Behaviour Code/Policy.
- Addressing a range of issues relating to bullying through the curriculum, particularly through the Personal Development Programme.

- The high level of individual support for all pupils through the allocation of key workers, provision of counselling for pupils, personalised programmes and individual behavioural and learning targets.

## **Other Information**

### **HELP ORGANISATIONS:**

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	020 7354 8321
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	<a href="http://www.bullying.co.uk">www.bullying.co.uk</a>
CEOP	<a href="http://ceop.police.uk/">http://ceop.police.uk/</a>
Childline	<a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/bullying/pages/bullying.aspx">http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/bullying/pages/bullying.aspx</a>

### **Appendix 1 - Cyber-bullying**

#### **Key Safety Advice For Children & Young People**

1. Always respect others – be careful what you say online and what images you send.
2. Think before you send – whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
3. Treat your password like your toothbrush – keep it to yourself. Only give your mobile number or social media contact to trusted friends.
4. Block the bully – learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly.
5. Don't retaliate or reply!
6. Save the evidence – learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations.
7. Make sure you tell:  
an adult you trust, or call a helpline like ChildLine on 0800 1111 in confidence;  
the provider of the service; check the service provider's website to see  
where to report incidents;  
your school – your form tutor, key worker or your safeguarding team can help you.

### **Safer Internet Links**

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2014/spread-the-word>  
[http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers\\_\(Links for parents\)](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers_(Links for parents))

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/> ( Links for parents)

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/young-people> Young people

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/ufiles/Quick-Activities-Secondary.pdf> Classroom links.

[http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_16/control/mobiles/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/control/mobiles/) Mobile safety

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/first2amillion/> watching online challenge

[http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_16/whatis/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/whatis/) sexual abuse

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGF146WJ22M&safe=active](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGF146WJ22M&safe=active) consequences being followed 8

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ntq4IV38FRs&safe=active](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ntq4IV38FRs&safe=active) how far does bulling

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZly12eGpNA&safe=active&gq=Music%20breath%20me> Music breath me

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5PZ\\_Bh-M6o&safe=active](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5PZ_Bh-M6o&safe=active) cyber bulling virus in school.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF6cmddWOgU&safe=active> reaction to Amanda Todd

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ovR3FF\\_6us&safe=active](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ovR3FF_6us&safe=active) EXPOSED VIDEO PICS

[http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_16/everything-else/games/duckhunt/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/everything-else/games/duckhunt/) games

to

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_16/new/uploading/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_16/new/uploading/) loading up videos

Reviewed September 2022 H Cutts

Reviewed September 2023 J Hodson

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