Westcliff Primary Academy
Anti-Bullying Policy
2026-2027

Statement of Intent

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that all pupils learn in a supportive, caring, and safe environment where no child should feel afraid or powerless. Bullying, which is repeated behavior that intentionally hurts or humiliates others, is anti-social behavior and affects everyone; it is unacceptable. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all of our pupils, regardless of background or differences, so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We will work to prevent bullying, and if it does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly, effectively, and that everyone in our school community plays a role in preventing and addressing bullying.

Why do we need an Anti-Bullying Policy?

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a child's ability to learn effectively. The negative effects of bullying, including emotional distress, lowered self-esteem, and difficulty concentrating, can have an impact on a person for their entire life. Hambleton wishes to promote a secure and happy environment, particularly for those who may be more vulnerable, free from threat, harassment, and any type of bullying behaviour. This policy promotes practices within school to reinforce our vision and to remove and discourage practices that negate them.

What is bullying?

Bullying occurs when an individual or a group uses strength or power to intentionally hurt others, either physically or emotionally, by intimidating or demeaning them, where there is an imbalance of power between the individuals involved. Bullying can be emotional, physical, racist, homophobic, verbal, or cyber. It is usually persistent and is often covert.

Bullying can take many forms including:

· Physical - bullying can include kicking, hitting, pushing and taking away belongings.

· Verbal - which includes name-calling, mocking, and making offensive comments.

· Emotional - which includes isolating an individual or spreading rumours about them.

Some warning signs that a child is being bullied include:

· Changes in academic performance.

· Appearing anxious.

· Regularly feeling sick or unwell.

· Reluctance to come to school.

· Clothes/bags torn or damaged.

· Loss of appetite/not sleeping very well

· Seen alone a lot.

· Not very talkative.

How to get help

Who can children talk to if they have concerns about bullying?

· Class teacher or any trusted adult.

· Headteacher

· Mini SLT

· Parents or Carers

How will they be supported?

· Offered an immediate opportunity to discuss their experiences with their chosen adult in school.

· Given reassurance and continuous support (other staff will be alerted, particularly those supervising less-structured times).

· Support with restoring self-esteem and confidence. Children can also use the 'Reach Out Report Form' found on the school website.

· Cyber-bullying - where technology is used to hurt an individual - for instance text messaging or posting messages/images on the internet or any form of social media.

· Racist - occurs when bullying is motivated by racial, ethnic, or cultural prejudice.

· Homophobic - when bullying is motivated by prejudice against anyone who is non-heterosexual (LGBTQ+).

With the advance of new technologies, the school is aware there is an increased risk of cyberbullying; inappropriately using messenger, emails, gaming, social networking sites, etc. We cover online safety within our Computing and PSHE curriculum, as well as focusing on this on Safer Internet Day.

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Helping Children Who Have Bullied:

· Discussion about what happened and why.

· Understanding the wrongdoing and the need for change.

· Informing parents or carers to help change the child's attitude.

Possible Responses:

· Consequences will be clearly explained and will match the severity of the incident.

· Counselling

· Involvement of external agencies

· Formal recording (see Behaviour Policy)

· Internal exclusion (see Behaviour Policy)

· Fixed-term exclusion (see Behaviour Policy)

· Permanent exclusion (see Behaviour Policy)

Anti-Bullying Procedures

It is made clear that bullying in any form is unacceptable. It will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly.

ALL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES:

· To encourage students to report bullying to any staff member or through designated reporting channels.

· To listen to all parties involved in incidents.

· To investigate incidents promptly and as fully as possible.

· To take appropriate action (e.g., counselling, restorative practices, disciplinary measures outlined in the Behaviour Policy) and refer to Class Teacher/SLT/Headteacher as appropriate.

· To promote the use of a range of strategies which challenge bullying behaviour (see PSHE curriculum, Mini-SLT)

· To model our non-negotiable in school: Being Respectful.

Strategies Supporting Our Anti-Bullying Policy

Awareness & Education

· Regular promotion of anti-bullying in assemblies

· Anti-bullying is taught throughout our PSHE Curriculum.

· Activities during Anti-Bullying Week

Communication & Feedback

· Annual questionnaires to research children's views on how safe they feel in school

· A regular agenda item for Mini-SLT, where they discuss bullying prevention strategies and gather feedback from their peers.

Support Systems

· One-to-one counselling, should this be deemed appropriate

· Strong staff-child relationships so children feel comfortable in reporting any issues

· Involve the children (represented by Mini-SLT) in drafting a child-friendly version of this policy

Anti-Bullying advice to Parents/Carers

We're in this together! If you suspect your child is being bullied, please speak to your child's Class Teacher in the first instance. You can also use the "Reach Out" Bullying Report Form found on our school website. We take bullying very seriously here at Westcliff.

The majority of bullying we see is cyber-bullying, particularly as children gain access to various devices. Please regularly monitor your child's use of texting, Facebook and other social media sites. We have lots of useful links on website that provide tips and advice.

We also include tips to keep children safe online in our newsletters from time to time and there are leaflets in the school reception area to support you.

● TALK to your child on a regular basis so any problem is easier to share

● LISTEN to what they say

● ENCOURAGE your child to feel good about themselves, realising that we are all different and equally important

● If you believe your child is being bullied, or is a bully, talk to other adults at home or at school and explore the options, DON'T STAY SILENT.

● If your child is a victim assure them that it is not their fault and that you are going to do something to help

● Be realistic in your expectation, sometimes ongoing problems can take time to resolve

● TRY to be cooperative with school and not be aggressive. Without us having a good working relationship the situation could deteriorate, which won't help you or them

● ALWAYS remember that children can't solve bullying on their own. T