



Wheatcroft CP School

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

(Based on KIDSCAPE's policy)

Statement of Intent

At Wheatcroft, our school motto is ***Learn and Care*** which means that we will strive to ensure that this outcome is reflected in all we do for all members of our school community. We 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 Wheatcroft School. 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 ***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 deliberate intention of hurting another person, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. The three main types of bullying are:

- physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- verbal (name calling, racist remarks)
- indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- 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 focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Child-on-Child Abuse

Wheatcroft Community Primary School recognises that children can be vulnerable to abuse by their peers. This may include physical, sexual, emotional or online abuse, and can occur both inside and outside school. Child-on-child abuse includes, but is not limited to, bullying (including cyberbullying), sexual violence and harassment, upskirting, initiation or hazing-type violence, and online exploitation.

All staff understand that even if there are no reported cases of child-on-child abuse, such behaviour may still be taking place. Any concerns will be treated seriously, investigated promptly and managed in line with the school's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**. Victims, perpetrators and wider groups affected will be offered appropriate support.

The school maintains a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. We promote a culture where pupils feel confident to report concerns, knowing they will be listened to, believed, and supported.

Derogatory or Discriminatory Language

The use of any **derogatory, discriminatory or demeaning language** is unacceptable at Wheatcroft Community Primary School. This includes language targeting a person's race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, appearance or family circumstances.

Staff will respond immediately to the use of such language, challenging it, explaining why it is unacceptable, and recording the incident appropriately. Patterns of repeated language use will be monitored and addressed through restorative approaches, education and pastoral support.

We promote respect, empathy and inclusion across all areas of school life, ensuring our language and curriculum reflect these values.

Prejudice-Based Incidents

Prejudice-based incidents are behaviours motivated by prejudice towards a particular group or protected characteristic (as defined in the **Equality Act 2010**). This includes incidents relating to race, religion or belief, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, or any other perceived difference.

All prejudice-based incidents are recorded, monitored and reported in line with local authority and governing board expectations. The school analyses trends in these incidents termly to identify patterns and inform preventative work.

Where appropriate, parents and carers will be informed and involved in restorative discussions to repair harm and rebuild relationships.

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. At Wheatcroft School, we will respond promptly and effectively to any issues of bullying.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

To ensure a consistent and effective approach to preventing and responding to bullying:

- **Headteacher** – Holds overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and ensures compliance with statutory safeguarding duties. Oversees monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to governors.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** – Ensures that any bullying involving potential safeguarding concerns is managed in line with child protection procedures. Provides staff training and records relevant incidents on the school's safeguarding system.
- **Class Teachers and Support Staff** – Promote positive relationships, model respectful behaviour, and act promptly when bullying or derogatory behaviour is observed or reported. They record incidents and inform senior leaders or the DSL as required.
- **Pastoral and SEND Staff** – Provide support for pupils who have experienced or engaged in bullying, working closely with families and external agencies where needed.
- **Governors** – Monitor the effectiveness of the policy through reports from the Headteacher, ensuring that the school fosters an inclusive, safe and respectful culture.

All staff are responsible for maintaining a consistent response, ensuring that no incident is ignored, and that all pupils feel safe and supported within school.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors 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 walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- 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 school work
- 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 dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- 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 and 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. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff and the Headteacher informed
3. In serious cases parents will be informed and asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place including detention or exclusion from using certain areas of the school premises.
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
3. In serious cases, temporary or even permanent exclusion will be considered.
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

We will use a range of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- writing a set of school rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- making up role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters through the teaching of PSHE curriculum and the strategies from Thrive

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 0808 800 5793

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 www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.

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Policy approved by Governors: 12.5.2022

Policy shared with parents/carers: November 2025

school website: www.wheatcroftprimary.com

Policy reviewed: Autumn Term 2025

Next review: Autumn Term 2026