

BURE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Definition - “ Bullying can be defined as “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance, “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2019, or any subsequent updates and Childnet’s “Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools”.

Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.

Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of peer on peer abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional development.

Policy objectives:

This policy outlines what Bure Park will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying

The safety and happiness of all our children is of paramount concern. We are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form. School Council take a lead in this area when feeding back to class councils. We aim to build a culture of respect for everyone and our anti-bullying Charter in school is called a Charter of Respect. This Charter was developed with other schools in the Bicester Learning Partnership of schools (BLIP) through the Children’s council – BLIPKIDz. They decided that the anti-bullying policy should be a positive Charter of things that people should do to respect each other rather than a list of things that people should not do. Anti bullying issues are addressed annually through the Relationships Education 2019, national anti bullying week in November, with a special focus on the theme set by this national event; and in assemblies throughout the year. Resources will be used from the LA Anti-bullying Advisory teacher and groups such as the Anti-bullying alliance, also including resources of an e-safety nature.

Links with other school policies and practices are

Learning and Conduct Policy (Behaviour)

Complaints policy

Child protection and Safeguarding policy

Confidentiality policy

Online safety and Acceptable Use Policies

Relationship Education 2019

Computing

Guiding Principles

All pupils have a right to feel safe and secure. They need to feel free from any threat of bullying and to know where to go and to whom to speak if bullying occurs. By effectively preventing and tackling any bullying our school can help to create a safe and disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

- All complaints of bullying will be treated seriously and will be acted upon in accordance with practice agreed by the whole school community, and in line with our Safeguarding policy and practices
- No complaints of bullying will be regarded as “telling tales.”
- We will act promptly when bullying occurs and records will be kept of all incidents.
- Wherever possible, and when appropriate, we will develop pupils’ awareness of issues relating to bullying, especially cyber bullying, through the curriculum.
- Assemblies will be used, where appropriate, to reinforce the fact that bullying is not acceptable or tolerated at Bure Park.
- All members of the school community will be made aware of what to do and who to go to should they observe incidents of bullying, or be confided in.
- Adults will ensure that they provide good role models for pupils in their everyday work with other colleagues and children.
- The policy will be monitored and reviewed regularly. Appropriate changes will be made in consultation with the whole school community.
- The school recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing.
- The School recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; this may include children with SEND. Being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- The School will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly. It will ensure that our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the antibullying policy.

- The School requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- The School recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed at all stages.
- The School will deal promptly with grievances regarding the school response to bullying in
- The School utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- The headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably,
- Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- All staff, including: governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.

Forms and types of bullying covered by this policy

• Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including:

- Bullying related to physical appearance
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
- Physical bullying
- Emotional bullying
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying
- Prejudicial bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics):
- Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
- Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
- Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying

School ethos

Responding to bullying

The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decisionmaking, as appropriate. The school will also work closely with the perpetrator(s) (See Appendix A)
- The headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another member of leadership staff (as appropriate to the school) will interview all parties involved.
- The DSL will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- If a child consistently abuses his/her power, specific targets will be set with the child to modify their treatment of others. This may be through targets on an Individual Behaviour Plan. Parents are fully involved especially when developing the IBPs.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentiality policies.
- Sanctions, as identified within the school Learning and Conduct Policy, and support will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as the police, if a criminal offence has been committed, or other local services including early help or children's social care, if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
- Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. If required, the DSL will collaborate with other schools. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with this policy and the school's Learning and Conduct policy.
- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Access Childnet's Cyberbullying guidance
- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.

- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include: looking at use of the school systems; identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include: support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content, Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include: advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply; providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists; helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

Supporting pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous pastoral support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the designated safeguarding lead, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence, via the Health and wellbeing lead adult.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include: working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling, engaging with parents and carers.

Pupils who have perpetrated bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.

- Sanctioning, in line with school behaviour/discipline policy; this may include official warnings.

Environment

The whole school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer on peer abuse).
- Recognises the potential for children with SEN and disabilities to be disproportionately impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as: children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related difference.
- Challenge practice and language (including ‘banter’) which does not uphold the school values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively create “safe spaces” for vulnerable children and young people.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to consider the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools’ attention, which involves or affects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully, and those who have been bullied.

Education and Training

The school community will:

- Train all staff, including: teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
- Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
- Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

Involvement of pupils

The School will:

- Involve pupils in policy writing and decision making, to ensure that they understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they play in preventing bullying.
- Regularly canvas children and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

Involvement and liaison with parents and carers The School will:

Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats, including via the school website

Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.

Monitoring and review: putting policy into practice

- The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate.

Useful links and supporting organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The BIG Award: www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net
- The Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practiceschools

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities:
www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_module_final.pdf
- DfE: SEND code of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-ofpractice-0-to-25

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis

