



Heather Garth
Primary Academy
Stars Aiming High

Anti-Bullying Policy

Policy Review Details

This review date is a guideline only and if circumstances or recommendations change then the policy will be reviewed and amended as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Governors on an annual basis

Date of Issue: Summer 2025

S. Farr

Chair of Governors Signature

Headteacher Signature

Date of next review: Summer 2026

Objectives of this Policy

This policy outlines what Heather Garth Primary Academy will do to prevent and tackle bullying. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture whereby no bullying will be tolerated.

Our school community will:

- monitor and review our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis, ensuring that all governors and staff know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it should bullying be reported;
- support all staff to promote positive relationships to prevent bullying, and identify and tackle any bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly;
- ensure that all pupils and parents know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises;
- reassure parents and pupils that they will be supported if bullying is reported. As a school we take bullying very seriously.
- report back to parents/carers regarding their concerns on bullying and deal promptly with complaints. Parents/ carers in turn will work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- ensure that pupils are aware that all bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively so that they feel safe to learn;
- support all pupils through encouraging them to develop positive social skills and attitudes by learning how to relate to and respect each other.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is 'behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally'. (DfE "Preventing and Tackling Bullying", October 2014).

Hate Crime - the term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

These aspects of a person's identity are known as 'protected characteristics'. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying, as well as damage to property. The perpetrator can also be a friend, carer or acquaintance who exploits their relationship with the victim for financial gain or some other criminal purpose.

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/hate-crime>

Bullying/Hate Crime can take many forms and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

Bullying/Hate Crimes can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of hostility including:

- hostility related to race, religion or culture.
- hostility related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability).
- hostility related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions.
- hostility related to sexual orientation (homophobic bullying).

- hostility of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances.
- Sexist, sexual and transphobic hostility.
- hostility via technology – for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet

Bullying/Hate Crimes 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 inappropriate and harmful behaviours expressed via digital devices (cyberbullying) such as the sending of inappropriate messages by phone, text, Instant Messenger, through websites and social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet.

Preventing, Identifying and Responding to Bullying

As a school we have created an ethos of good behaviour where pupils treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. Values of respect for staff and other pupils, an understanding of the value of education, and a clear understanding of how our actions affect others permeate the whole school environment and are reinforced by staff and older pupils who set a good example to the rest.

Our school's response to bullying does not start at the point at which a child has been bullied. Our school staff act proactively to gather any information about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict, and develop strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. This might involve talking to pupils about issues of difference, perhaps in lessons, through dedicated events or projects, or through assemblies.

Strategies to help prevent the occurrence of bullying behaviour

At Heather Garth Primary Academy, we will:

- ensure all staff are aware of and follow the school behaviour policy;
- create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others which will be upheld by all – this is taught through citizenship lessons;
- provide an 'open door' approach for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns;
- challenge practice which does not uphold the school's values for example, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others;
- consider all opportunities for addressing bullying in all forms throughout the curriculum (stories, drama and role play) including a range of additional approaches such as through displays, assemblies, events, and the school council;
- regularly update and evaluate our approaches to take into account the developments of technology, and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour;
- train all staff to identify all forms of bullying and to follow the school policy and procedures (including recording and reporting incidents);
- proactively gather and record concerns and information about bullying incidents and issues so as to effectively develop strategies to prevent bullying from occurring;
- use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully and those who have been bullied;

- work with other agencies and the wider school community to prevent and tackle concerns;
- celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Involvement of pupils

We will:

- regularly gather the children'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 (appropriate to their age);
- offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

Liaise with Parents and Carers

We will:

- make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact if parents are worried) is available to parents/carers e.g. website, newsletter;
- ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively;
- ensure all parents/carers know where to access independent advice about bullying;
- work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that may give rise to bullying;
- ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils.

Links with other school policies and practices

This Policy links with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour and discipline policy
- Complaints policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policies
- e-Safety (Online Safety)
- Curriculum policies such as PSHCE and computing
- Use of mobile phone and social media policies
- Staff Code of Conduct

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- School Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy;
- Governors and all staff to be aware of this policy and implement it accordingly;
- The Headteacher to communicate the policy to the school community and to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably;
- Staff to support and uphold the aims of the policy;
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school;
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

Procedures for all staff

Dealing with Incidents

When bullying is suspected or reported:

- Staff will intervene immediately when bullying is reported;
- Staff will investigate – listen to all parties and witnesses;
- The incident will be recorded and given to the head teacher or deputy head teacher, who will interview the children concerned;
- The child being bullied will be made aware that the incident will be dealt with;
- Parents/carers of the child/children doing the bullying will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss their child's behaviour;
- Parents/carers of the child being bullied will be informed and invited to meet with an appropriate member of staff;
- A suitable sanction will be implemented for the child doing the bullying in order to modify or change the behaviour;
- Staff will monitor the behaviour of both "bully" and "victim", and all staff will be alerted to watch out for further occurrence.

Supporting Pupils

The first priority will be to support the victim.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff;
- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support;
- Helped to develop strategies to prevent re-occurrence;
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Sanctions will be applied to those children who are bullying as appropriate. This may be a removal of privileges or removal from the playground for a period of time in order that the victim may play safely in the knowledge that the bully is not present.

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened and establishing the concern, developing an understanding of the impact of their actions on the victim, and helping them understand that what they have done is wrong and that they need to change their behaviour;
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child;
- Providing appropriate education and support;
- Sanctioning in line with school behaviour/discipline policy, for example, removal of the bully from the playground or classroom, time out in another class or with a senior teacher, or exclusion from playtime or lunchtime. In extreme cases, the child will be put into isolation.

Monitoring

The head teacher will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying and outcomes.

The school will ensure that the policy is consistently applied and that any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.