



Hawkesdown House School

Endeavour • Courage • Truth

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

This is a whole school policy including EYFS.

This School Policy is reviewed annually and has regard to the DfE advice 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' (2017) and DfE Advice for Parents and Carers on Cyberbullying (August 2013, updated July 2017), the Equality Act (2010), Cyberbullying: Advice for head teachers and school staff (2014) and NSCPCC Bullying and Cyberbullying and KCSIE 2021.

See also Behaviour Policy, PSHEE Policy, Use of Technology Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy and Anti-Bullying Guidelines for Children booklet (See Appendix 1)

Statement of Intent

Hawkesdown House we believe that corporal punishment must not be used or threatened to be used. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils, so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We recognise the seriousness of bullying, both physical and emotional (which may cause psychological damage). Every student has the right to be safe and happy in school and to be protected when they are feeling vulnerable. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. When bullying occurs, all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

Objectives of this Policy

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All 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.
- Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Definition of bullying

There is no legal definition of bullying, however, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated;
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally;
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.
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It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

The four main types are:

EMOTIONAL / VERBAL

- being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, spreading rumours, looks, gestures
- name calling, teasing, insulting, prejudicial taunts on the grounds of race, creed, gender, culture or SEND.
- Written versions of the above.

PHYSICAL

- hitting, kicking, unwanted physical contact, taking or hiding belongings including money

ICT (CYBER) RELATED

- harassment or defamation by email or text posting on Weduc (school's parent communication app and programme) or any website, misuse of the internet such as email and chat rooms, mobile phone threats by messaging and calls, misuse of any associated technology i.e. camera, video facilities.

SEXUAL

- any bullying behaviour whether physical or non-physical that is based on a person's sexuality or gender. It is when sexuality / gender is used as a weapon by boys or girls towards other boys or girls. It can be carried out to a person's face, or behind their backs or through the use of technology.

Bullying can arise between the following relationships;

- Pupil to pupil
- Pupil to staff
- Staff / adult to pupil
- Staff to staff

Peer on peer abuse is abuse, and abusive comments and interactions will not be tolerated by the School or passed off as just 'banter', just 'having a laugh', or 'part of growing up'. (See Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy). Gender may affect peer on peer abuse and staff must be vigilant in this regard.

Bullying outside the home can be an indication that a child could be experiencing abuse at home. It is important for staff to understand that children who bully may be victims themselves. (see London Child Protection Procedures and Practice Guidance for further information).

A bullying incident should be treated as a child protection concern when there is reasonable cause to believe a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Why it is important to respond to Bullying

- Bullying is unacceptable in any form and the School will always respond to concerns and take appropriate action.
- When the impact of bullying can have extremely serious consequences for a child, including psychological damage and loss of self-esteem.

Some signs and symptoms

A pupil may indicate by signs or patterns of behaviour that he or she is being bullied. He/She may;

- being unwilling or afraid to go to school, being 'mysteriously' ill each morning or skipping school
- feel ill in the morning and complain of tummy / head aches
- begin to do poorly in school work
- become withdrawn, nervous, losing confidence, or becoming stressed or withdrawn, starts stammering, stops eating or overeats.
- regularly have books or clothes destroyed or stolen
- cry easily or has nightmares

- become tired and listless due to inability to sleep
- become disruptive or aggressive
- have belongings getting 'lost' or damaged
- be frightened to say what is wrong
- have physical injuries, such as unexplained bruises
- run away
- self-harm
- bully others

These signs and behaviour traits could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered as a possibility and should be investigated.

Prevention of Bullying

As well as recognising the signs and symptoms of bullying and using strategies to deal with this, Hawkesdown House School actively strives to **prevent** bullying in all aspects of the curriculum and day to day running of the school.

Pupils are given the 'Anti-Bullying Guidelines for Children' booklet which they are required to read, understand and sign. A copy of this will be sent home for parents to read and understand too. (Located in the Policies and ISI Documentation Folder in OneDrive/Storebox).

Staff awareness is raised through INSET and regular training. Staff are also required to be extra vigilant at times and in places where bullying is more likely.

Our School values (JACK values) promote kind and sensitive behaviour, and reward this with community spirit awards, stickers and praise. Success is celebrated publicly, by everyone so that a positive ethos is created. JACK is part of our ethos and is very much present and part of each day at Hawkesdown House. (J – Joy of Learning, A – All In, C – Confidence and Independence, K – Kindness and Respect).

Staff are required to set an example to the pupils by thoughtful, caring behaviour to each other and to other children. A number of staff will complete the 'Show Racism the Red Card' online course each year.

Assemblies will often take the theme of being kind to one another and showing children how they should respect and cherish their fellow peers.

We have introduced Senior Buddies as a result of a School Council meeting whereby the representatives wanted to do more for the School and Anti-Bullying Week campaigns. Elected Form 3 Senior Buddies partner up with a different class. These children have been chosen as role models and are there for younger pupils who might want to speak to an older child.

Our PSHEE/RSE programme covers a range of aspects related to bullying and the procedures, should any child encounter this. All pupils are expected to abide by the School Rules. We endeavour to develop self-confidence in our pupils so that they are enabled to speak out against bullying and aim to create an inclusive, safe environment in which it is easy for pupils to report bullying and where discussion is free.

Staff are required to be extra vigilant at times and in places where bullying is more likely.

Mobile phone usage

Children are forbidden the possession of mobile phones at the School to avoid the possibility of taking pictures or videos of each other or of the staff. Parents accompanying children on trips to the park or on school trips are also requested not to photograph or video the children.

What Can Adults Do to Stop Bullying?

- Talk to the School community about bullying and cyberbullying
- Let them know who to ask for help
- Give support to those who are bullied.

- Help a bully to change his behaviour and make certain that he/she does so.
- Encourage people who see bullying to report it.
- Investigate the facts
- Inform the parents of both the victim and the bully and of the actions taken to prevent the bullying.
- Educate children to protect themselves against bullying behaviour.
- Work in partnership with the School
- Help them relax and take a time out

What Can a Child Do if He or She is Being Bullied?

- Tell an adult – teacher or parent.
- Tell an older child/Senior Buddy or his friends.
- Tell themselves that they don't deserve to be bullied.
- Avoid situations where bullying is possible.
- Say NO to the bully.
- Be assertive and confident.
- Support the child by focusing on what makes them feel good and give opportunities to develop confidence.
- Try not to show that he or she is upset.

The following procedures are in place at Hawkesdown House School.

1. Teachers must be vigilant at all times and report a bullying incident or any concerns they may have about a child to the Head immediately.
2. Parents may report any concerns they may have about their child being bullied to the Head.
3. Likewise, the Head will discuss the bullying incident with the victim's parents and later with the victim present.
4. An official warning is given to the bully and his parents. The parents and the bully are reminded that the School's Sanctions Policy will be followed rigorously.
5. Upon admission to Hawkesdown House School, all children and their parents are made aware of this anti-bullying policy.

The Headmistress will use her discretion to resolve any cases of bullying. This discretion will take into account the fact that children sometimes bully others because:

- They do not know that it is wrong
- They are copying other members of their family or friends
- They have been encouraged by their friend to bully
- They are taking out their insecurities on others
- They are going through a difficult time and are taking out their aggression on others.

If deemed necessary, the Headmistress will notify the parents of both the aggressor and the victim, will interview others discreetly and use her judgement as to how best to resolve the situation understanding that supports for both the bully and the victim is essential. If a child has been guilty of bullying, this will be noted on their file and sanctions/official warnings, would be put in place. It is possible that, in an extreme case, the school could decide that suspension, or even permanent exclusion, was warranted to prevent bullying. In conclusion, bullying is a threat to the good order and atmosphere of a school and can break out at any time and involve anyone. It is the duty of everyone in the school community to try to ensure that bullying does not take place and that Hawkesdown House School is a happy and caring environment.

The aim of the school in this area is to prevent bullying as much as possible and deal rapidly and strongly with it should it occur. The school PSHEE and RSE programme seeks to address the causes of bullying and help children to understand the issue and our policy towards it. This policy is to be used in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Outcomes

1. The bully may be asked to apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
3. Reconciliation of all involved if possible

4. After the incident/s have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Support

For pupils who have been bullied:

The school will assure the bullied student of continued interest in their welfare and offer any time required for talking through recent events. The school will explain what steps have been taken to offer protection for the future and give an undertaking that it will respond to any further instances affecting that pupil. All staff are all expected to play a part in restoring the pupil's confidence in the safety of day to day routines in the school. If longer term counselling is required, the Head, and external agencies can become involved.

For pupils who have bullied:

Whilst an applied sanction is both corrective and appropriate, the school will also take extra steps to educate the bully. Time will be spent in counselling and in encouraging the bully to empathise with the victim so that learning might prove the best deterrent to any repeat behaviour. The Head will take responsibility for ensuring this happens.

Support of Parents of those who bully and who have been bullied:

Anti-bullying Guidelines are sent home in Years 1 and above for children to discuss with their parents. The Anti-Bullying Policy is uploaded on the website for parents to access at all times. The School will maintain close contact and communication with parents so that they can support their children, with the School's support, to resolve any bullying issues. The School will explain what steps have or will be taken and if longer term counselling is required, this will be shared with parents.

Reporting and Recording

A bullying incident should be treated as a child protection concern where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. In this case a decision would be taken to seek external advice from the local childcare services.

So that it is easy to report bullying, including cyber-bullying and bullying outside school, records are kept to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach adopted or to enable patterns to be identified.

Where a bullying incident occurs, it is recorded by the class teacher, including the date, the parties involved and an account of the incident and a copy given to the Head. The Head keeps a centralised record of incidents.

Incidents of bullying are discussed as they occur in weekly staff meetings, to ensure all staff are kept informed.

Raising Awareness

At Hawkesdown House School, we raise awareness through staff training e.g. ChildNet visit. So that the principles of the school policy are understood, legal responsibilities are known, action is defined to resolve and prevent problems, and sources of support are available. Where appropriate, the school will invest in specialized skills to understand the needs of their pupils, e.g. OT Training, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), pupils.

Bullying Linked to Disability

At Hawkesdown House School, we are aware that a child with a disability, be it physical or mental, may be subject to bullying from other pupils. These children will be continually monitored to ensure that they are not the subject of ridicule or bullying in any way. By nature of their disability, e.g. autism, some children may be seen to provoke other children into an act of aggression or verbal abuse. However, this is not acceptable and to prevent this, teachers and assistants impress on all pupils, the need to be kind and thoughtful to everyone.

Bullying Linked to Ethnicity or Faith

There is no place for either of these in our School culture. Each family is welcomed into the School community and is valued for their contribution to our happy, stable and cosmopolitan environment.

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 replaces previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. A key provision is a public-sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5 April 2011. It replaces the three previous public-sector equality duties for race, disability and gender, and also covers age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Duty has three aims. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Schools are now required to comply with the Equality Duty.

The Act also makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, provision of pupil access to any benefit, facility or service, or by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment. In England and Wales, the Act applies to all maintained and independent schools, including Academies and Free Schools, and maintained and non-maintained special schools.

We recognise that some groups of young people are more likely to experience bullying than others and this can have a long-lasting impact on people's lives. We seek to create school culture that reflects safety and inclusivity, that celebrates difference, uses the language of diversity and includes and involves all pupils and empowers children and staff.

Cyber Bullying Policy

With increasing availability to children of electronic devices that give unrestricted access to the internet, the school considers online safety as part of both safeguarding and anti-bullying arrangements. Limitations in the provision of hardware and the vigilance of teachers and parents have a part to play in the safeguarding and protection of pupils at school and children at home. As it is not possible to deny access to technologies that have both good and injurious potential, pupils are taught to exercise their good sense in the knowledge of what is available to them and the risks to which they may be subject, in line with their age and experience.

- (a) use of mobile phones and cameras;

No pupil should have a mobile phone in school. No pupil should take a photograph by either camera or mobile phone of another child or of a member of staff unless given express permission by staff and in an appropriately supervised context and setting.

- (b) the taking of official and parental photographs of pupils in school;

Similarly, parents are asked not to take photographs of pupils who are not their own children at school events such as a sports day.

- (c) use of computers and other devices in school, including filtering and monitoring of internet usage;

All computer settings are set to the highest level of security and firewalls (Smoothwall) are in place. No child has access to email in school. All children's use of the internet is closely supervised.

- (d) information about grooming, internet sites containing violent or adult content, and sharing personal information/photographs;

Pupils are given age appropriate information about internet safety. Pupils have no access at all to social media websites on the school network and via the wireless network infrastructure

- (e) use of technologies to tease, bully or threaten;

No pupil, member of staff or other adult associated with the school shall use technology to tease, bully or threaten. Should this occur then the child will be subject to the sanctions set out in the behaviour policy and in the most serious cases shall be suspended and permanent exclusion considered. Any adult would be guilty of gross misconduct and appropriate action will be taken that may include notifying the Disclosure and Barring Service as well as the police as this would be a safeguarding concern.

- (f) The management of personal data in line with statutory requirements.

The School ensures that all devices are fully encrypted, including personal devices used by staff.

ChildNet International deliver workshops to all children and hold evening parent masterclasses every two years.

Appendix 1

