

Community Academies Trust
Birchwood Primary School Policy



Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy was drafted by N Coleman. It was presented in draft version to the full staff compliment for discussion and revision. The final version was presented to Governors for consideration, approval and adoption.

Date adopted by Governors:	February 2023
Date for policy review:	February 2024
Person responsible for review:	Headteacher

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At Birchwood Primary School Every Child Matters.

1 Introduction

It is a Government requirement that all schools have an anti-bullying policy. The Academy policy reflects this and recent DfE advice.

DfE guidance defines bullying as actions that are meant to be hurtful, and which happen on a regular basis. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (for example, being ignored or not spoken to).

2 Aims and objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as completely unacceptable.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

3 The role of governors

The School Standards Committee (SSC) supports the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The SSC will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.

The SSC monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on a termly basis about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident can ask the chair of governors to look into the matter. The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases the governing body notifies the Headteacher, and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case- this may be delegated to the Associate Head, and to report back to a representative of the governing body. The governing body then report their findings to the parent.

4 The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The Headteacher reports to the SSC about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request. The anti-bullying policy will form part of the induction process for new staff.

The Headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact during assembly times and through circle time discussions.

The Headteacher ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.

The Headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

5 The role of the Associate Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Associate Headteacher to support the Headteacher in the implementation of the school anti-bullying strategy, on a day to day basis, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The Associate Headteacher provides ongoing information to the Headteacher about incidents which are then used to report to the SSC.

The Headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Associate Headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Associate Headteacher may decide to use an assembly as the forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong.

6 The role of the teacher and support staff

All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will investigate it themselves and always refer it to the Associate Headteacher or Headteacher. Teachers and support staff do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Head / Associate Headteacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.

All incidents of bullying are recorded on CPOMS, under the 'bullying' and 'child on child abuse' categories. Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Administration staff record these directly onto the system, usually following a conversation with a DSL.

This includes information on the child/children involved, the details of the incident and the place it has occurred.

Incidents are recorded whether they take place in the classroom or out of the classroom. If incidents happen near to school, or on the way to or from school these are also recorded. If adults in school witness any bullying this can be recorded on CPOMS directly by the staff member. Visitors to the school use concern forms, which are then uploaded by a DSL to CPOMS to maintain a full record. Through this we are able to monitor any changes or patterns in bullying across school, and within year groups or classes.

When any bullying takes place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and consequences for the child who has carried out the bullying. Time is spent talking to the child who has bullied: explaining why his/her action was wrong, and that child is encouraged to change his/her behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, staff inform the Headteacher and the SENDCO. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Headteacher / Associate Headteacher may contact external support agencies, such as Children's services.

All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.

Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust, consideration and respect for all. They use drama, assemblies, role-play, stories etc within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. PSHE lessons are an important time in which to learn about bullying. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere.

7 The role of parents

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the Associate Headteacher or Headteacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed on the school website.

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

8 The role of pupils

Pupils are encouraged to tell somebody on their network of trusted adults if they are being bullied, and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know.

Pupils are invited to tell us their views about a range of school issues, including bullying, in the annual pupil questionnaire.

9 Other policies linked to this one

- Behaviour policy

- Child Protection policy
- Social Media policy
- Online Safety policy
- Complaints procedure

10 Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher and the Associate Headteacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the Headteacher. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Policy Review Sheet

Please note any comments or suggested amendments on this sheet. You may also choose to complete your comments in confidence on a separate piece of paper. Please add your initial to any comments.

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