Kirtlington
C.E. School

Anti-bullying Policy

Reviewed and approved by: FGB

Policy Reviewed: March 2026

Future Review: March 2027

Introduction and Aims

At Kirtlington CE Primary School, we are committed to working with children, staff, governors and parents/carers to create a school environment where similarities are identified and celebrated, difference is valued and nurtured, and bullying, harassment and violence are never tolerated. This policy aims to help both prevent and tackle bullying in equal measure.

We love our neighbour just as Jesus Christ loves us

Our school is a safe place where all children, adults and the wider community are valued and embrace the difference in one another. Children become successful, resilient learners, who, through an emphasis on well-being and spirituality, reach their full potential, guided by the example of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25 ff). They become courageous advocates in society, using kindness and forgiveness to do the right thing with understanding, tolerance and love.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will never be tolerated at our school.

At Kirtlington CE Primary School, we expect our children to learn and grow through our Christian Values:

- **Love -** includes friendship and the love of learning and of people. It links with kindness, teamwork and how we treat each other and relate to one another, including forgiveness and reconciliation.
- **Respect -** includes treating people fairly, with dignity and equality, ensuring our relationships with all people are respectful. It includes learning to assess honestly and to understand feelings and behaviours as well as learning to say sorry, to be forgiven and to learn from mistakes.
- **Perseverance** - includes resilience, determination, self-belief, and learning to cope with difficult situations and grow through them. It connects with supporting good mental health as we learn from our mistakes.
- **Hope -** includes aspiration and aiming high, as well as trying to be the best person we can be. It includes hope for our future, hope for others, and hope for the world, believing that we can make a change.
- **Service -** includes becoming good citizens who care about others and will do things without reward because it is the right thing to do. It includes thinking about others rather than always about ourselves and helps mental health both for those being helped and those helping.

We actively encourage every child to embrace and live by the above values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes which enable them to develop as reflective learners and grow to be stable, educated, respected and respectful adults in modern Britain. It is our duty to prepare every child for what will be expected of them by society, their secondary school, workplace or further study setting.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistency of approach to hurtful behaviour and bullying within our school community. While we must understand that we are all individuals, everybody has the right to feel safe, all of the time.

While bullying and making mistakes is a fact of life, bullying will not be tolerated in or outside of our school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Restorative Practice and Behaviour Policy
- Online safety and Acceptable Use Policy
- Equality Policy
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy
- Relationship and Sex Education Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy

What is bullying?

"Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face-to-face and online."

- Anti-Bullying Alliance

Table 1: Source - Psychology Today

Whether intended or not, hurtful behaviour must be challenged.

Everybody has the right to feel safe.

No form of bullying will be tolerated in our school and all incidents will be taken seriously.

Below are some factors that can make people vulnerable to bullying:

When dealing with bullying-related incidents, schools must refer to the Equality Act 2010 and the 9 protected characteristics within it: age, gender, race, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.

Children and young people who are at most increased risk of being the victims or perpetrators of bullying can be those who:

- are in foster care or residential homes (Children We Care For)
- are understood to be at risk from a range of safeguarding or Child Protection issues – e.g. organised crime groups
- have specific special educational needs – e.g. Autism
- have a disability or impairment
- are from minority ethnic backgrounds

- are refugees or asylum seekers
- start school or an activity group mid-term
- are, or are perceived to be, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning of their sexuality or gender
- speak a first language other than English
- are young carers
- have suffered bereavement
- have suffered domestic violence
- have experienced physical or emotional trauma
- have a parent that was a victim of bullying
- experience poverty or deprivation
- are perceived as different in some way

Types of bullying:

Bullying behaviours can include:

The repeated negative **use of bodily contact** to intentionally hurt others.

- Physical harm – e.g. hitting, kicking, tripping up, spitting, taking or damaging property, use of threat or force in any way, intimidation or demands for money or goods.

The repeated negative **use of speech, sign language, or verbal gestures** to intentionally hurt others.

- Verbal harm – e.g. name calling, insulting, teasing, 'jokes'/banter (click here to view the Anti-Bullying Alliance's 'Banter or Bullying?' webpage), mocking, taunting, gossiping, secrets, threats. Reference to upsetting events - e.g. bereavement, divorce, being in care.

The repeated negative **use of actions, which are neither physical nor verbal,** to intentionally hurt others.

- Non-verbal harm – e.g. staring, body language, gestures.
- Indirect harm – e.g. excluding, ostracising, rumours and stories, emails, chat rooms, messaging phones, notes, inappropriate gestures.

The repeated negative **use of technology as a medium** to intentionally hurt others.

- Cyber harm – e.g. text messaging, instant messaging, internet chat rooms, the misuse of social media applications, the misuse of camera or video facilities (including self-generated inappropriate images), offensive questions and nasty inbox messages.
- The use of generative artificial intelligence being used to bully others, for example in the use of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real.

The repeated negative treatment of another **incited by a parent/carer.**

We acknowledge that some acts of bullying will constitute a criminal offence (Bullying and the Law - Anti-Bullying Alliance). In these cases, we would seek advice from local services. For example, our Police Liaison Officer, the Local Authority's Anti-Bullying Officer and the Locality and Community Support Services (LCSS).

Bullying outside of school

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it takes place inside or outside of school.

'Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on.'

(DfE Preventing and Tackling Bullying, p.6)

For more information, refer to the below Department for Education (DfE) publications:

- Bullying outside school
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying (advice for schools)
- Cyberbullying (advice for schools)
- Cyberbullying: advice for parents and carers
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)

Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at the weekends, during the holidays and in the wider community. The nature of cyberbullying means that it can impact on pupils' well-being beyond the school day. Staff, parents/carers and pupils must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report it in the same way that they would if they witnessed bullying in school.

We will follow the same procedures (see 'Dealing with an Incident') when it becomes apparent that bullying outside of school is affecting members of our school community. However, if the individual or group causing harm to a member of our community does not attend Kirtlington CE Primary School, we will seek advice and guidance from local services (e.g. Schools, Police, Children's Social Care) to ensure action is initiated to address the bullying behaviour.

Possible indicators of bullying

We recognise that the following behaviours may suggest that someone is being bullied:

- disturbed sleep
- bed-wetting
- head and stomach aches
- problems with concentration
- changes in behaviour and attitude
- school refusal
- bullying other children
- damaged or missing clothes / money / property
- asking for more money than usual or stealing money
- withdrawn or changes in their usual behaviour patterns or attitude
- distressed or emotional and finds it hard to articulate their feelings
- changes in their eating patterns
- changes in their online activity
- shows evidence of self-harming or even for extreme cases potential suicide
- is unusually tired without a reasonable explanation
- has unexplained bruises or marks on their body - some may refuse to change for PE
- repeatedly comes to school without dinner money or a packed lunch
- seems afraid to be alone and requires more adult interaction

- This list is not exhaustive. In addition, these behaviours could also indicate other issues for which schools may refer to their Behaviour and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies for guidance

School initiatives to prevent and tackle bullying

We use a range of measures to prevent and tackle bullying including:

- Staff are trained in Restorative Practice. Restorative approaches provide support to those who may have been affected by conflict or bullying behaviours. For more information on Restorative Practice, visit Oxfordshire County Council's Anti-Bullying webpage.
- All staff are trained in Generalist Safeguarding; effectively preventing and tackling all forms of bullying; reporting concerns; and where to go for help and support.
- At Kirtlington CE Primary School, we have high expectations of behaviour which we promote through our School Behaviour Pledge which is displayed in every classroom and around the school (see below).

Our School Rules

We love our neighbour just as Jesus Christ loves us.

- We work together as a team showing **love**, kindness and friendship, including forgiveness.
- We are fair to everyone and **respect** all people, places and things.
- We value our learning and have the courage and **perseverance** in order to do our best.
- We have **hope** and aspiration, always aiming high to be the best we can be.
- We promote **service** by being good citizens and caring for others

- RE lessons include opportunities for pupils to understand about how we are all unique and made in the image and likeness of God.
- The Discovery RSHE programme of study includes opportunities for pupils to learn:
  - about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help.
  - the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs.
  - that in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority.
  - that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.

    - that the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous.
- The school 'My Happy Mind' mental health programme includes teaching on the importance of positive relationships and how to build them, as well as building self-esteem and resilience.
- Regular school assemblies, in addition to Anti-Bullying Week in November, help raise pupils' awareness of bullying and derogatory language.
- Difference and diversity are celebrated across the school through diverse displays, books and images.
- The school values of equality and respect are embedded across the curriculum – we strive to be inclusive in everything that we do.
- Pupils are continually involved in developing school-wide Anti-Bullying initiatives through consultation with the School Council and any child who has been affected by conflict or bullying. As a restorative school, we aim to work with children and their families in order to effectively prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.

Reporting – Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

The Governing Board have a duty to ensure the school has policies in place to effectively prevent and tackle all forms of bullying and for reviewing the effectiveness of such policies.

Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher, with the support of senior leaders, to implement the school's Anti-Bullying Policy consistently throughout the school and to report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy. It is also the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all children in the school, with the support of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The headteacher must ensure that the Anti-Bullying Policy is consistently implemented by all staff by setting the standards of behaviour expected and by supporting staff, through appropriate training, in the implementation of the policy.

The Headteacher, supported by class teachers, is also responsible for ensuring expectations of behaviours are clear to all children and that children know what to do if they or somebody else is being mistreated or bullied.

Where appropriate, the headteacher should seek advice in order to address complex cases of bullying; it is not always possible to effectively resolve every case by following the steps outlined in 'Dealing with an Incident' section. Indeed, every case will be unique.

Staff (Teaching and Non-Teaching)/ Adult visitors

All adults encountered by the children at school have a responsibility to model and promote respectful relationships, both in their dealings with the children and with each other, as their example has a huge influence on the children. All adults have a duty to encourage positive behaviours and challenge any negative behaviours. At Kirtlington CE Primary School, we believe that **the behaviour we walk past is the behaviour we accept.**

All adults at Kirtlington CE Primary School should aim to:

- create a positive environment with high expectations;
- emphasise the importance of being valued as an individual within the group;

- promote, through example, honesty and courtesy;
- provide a caring and effective learning environment;
- encourage relationships based on kindness, respect and understanding of the needs of others;
- ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, ability and disability;
- show appreciation of the efforts and contributions of all.

Staff, governors and regular volunteers are trained to be vigilant to the signs of bullying and to play an active role in the school's measures to prevent bullying. If adults become aware of bullying, they should reassure the children involved that they will act, follow the steps outlined in 'Dealing with an Incident' and inform their class teacher without delay.

Pupils

All children have a duty to report bullying. If children become aware of hurtful behaviour, they should reassure the children involved that they will act and inform an adult without delay.

Role of Parents / Carers

At Kirtlington CE Primary School, we aim to work closely with parents/carers so that our children receive consistent messages about appropriate ways to behave in and out of school. Behaviour expectations are clearly communicated via parent newsletters and our website.

We expect all parents/carers to support their child's learning and to co-operate with the school. We work hard to build positive relationships with parents/carers and will always inform parents/carers if we have concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.

If the school uses reasonable sanctions to manage a child's behaviour, it is essential that parents/carers support the actions of the school. If parents/carers have concerns about the way that their child has been treated, they should initially contact the class teacher. If concerns remain, parents/carers should speak to the headteacher.

For more information, go to Oxfordshire County Council's 'Help if your child is being bullied' webpage.

Dealing with an incident

When bullying has been reported, the following actions will be taken:

Stage 1

a) As it can be difficult to identify the bully and bullied in situations of conflict, and once children are calm enough to engage in conversation, staff will work through the 5 restorative steps with any child involved in conflict/bullying.

What are the '5 Steps of Restorative Practice'?

Step 1: Tell the story - What has happened? Start from the beginning… What happened just before that?

Step 2: Thoughts and Feelings - What were/are you thinking? What were/are you feeling? How do you think they are feeling?

Step 3: Ripples of harm – Who has been harmed and how have they been harmed? What has been the most difficult thing for you?

Step 4: Needs – What do you need in order to find closure? What do you need to move forward?

Step 5: What next? What do you think will make things better? What needs to happen?

Children may initially do this on a reflection form, if emotions are running high, and then talk to staff. Appropriate next steps will be agreed (e.g. restorative meeting, letter of apology, etc.) and the class teacher and parents, of all children involved, will be notified.

b) The incident will be recorded on CPOMS without delay (see Appendix).

Stage 2

For serious behaviour incidents, skip to Stage 3.

Should children continue to behave in a way that is hurtful to others, Stage 1 will be repeated and the child causing harm will be treated in-line with the school's Behaviour Policy to safeguard any children who have been harmed by their behaviour. This may, for example, be a period of internal exclusion (1 or 2 days off the playground) and will be decided by the headteacher.

Staff will offer support to any children who have been harmed and take necessary action to make sure they feel safe and reassured – with the children's consent, this may involve a restorative meeting that produces a written agreement between all children involved.

Stage 3

Should negative behaviours persist following Stage 2 intervention(s) or a serious behaviour incident, the child/children causing harm will be placed on an Inclusion Support Plan (ISP). An ISP requires positive and negative behaviours to be identified by a relevant member of staff using a QCA Behaviour Assessment. The children who have been harmed should be safeguarded from the harmer until the point a meeting can be arranged with the parents/carers of the harmer. In a meeting involving school, parents/carers and the child, the behaviours causing concern must be acknowledged, possible triggers identified, and a SMART action plan put in place. The ISP should be reviewed weekly with key adults in school.

For any children who have suffered harm, we will assess their needs and, where possible, provide in-school welfare support. For significant cases and cases that constitute a criminal offence, children can be referred to SAFE! Support for Young People Affected by Crime, with the consent of their parent/carer.

Stage 4

Should negative behaviours persist following the implementation of an Inclusion Support Plan (ISP), the headteacher should seek advice* to further consider how to reduce the risk of recurrence as part of a risk assessment/safety plan and implement appropriate safeguards and support for the child.
If a child reaches Stage 4, the school should also work with the parents/carers to initiate an Early Help Assessment (EHA) and Team Around the Family (TAF) – multi-agency meeting - to consider what action is necessary, and in the child's best interests. Should the family refuse to engage with school in this process, the school will seek support from the Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) to engage the family. TAF meetings should take place every 6 weeks. Progress against PSP goals should be reviewed as part of the TAF.

* At Stage 4, the headteacher should also refer to the Learner Engagement Team's Guide for school leaders and agencies supporting school-age children / young people at risk of exclusion from school.

In all of these cases, a multi-agency meeting should be arranged to reduce the risk of exclusion:

- If a child has an **Education Health and Care Plan** you must contact your SEN Officer to discuss the risk of exclusion
- If the child is a **Looked After** you must contact the Virtual School for Looked After Children
- If the child is open to social care **(Child in Need or Child Protection)** you must contact the social worker

Safeguarding

When there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm,' a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern under the Children Act 1989. Where this is the case, school staff should discuss with the school's designated safeguarding lead and report their concerns to their local authority children's social care and work with them to take appropriate action.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The headteacher should take account of any contributing factors when dealing with incidents of bullying. Early intervention to address underlying causes of bullying behaviour should include an assessment of whether appropriate provision is in place to support any SEN or disability that a pupil may have. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must not discriminate. For disabled children, this includes a duty to make reasonable adjustments to policies and practices.

Should the behaviour of a child with any SEN or disability be causing significant harm to others and there is an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place, the school must request an early annual review.

Recording and Reporting

Kirtlington CE Primary School records incidents of bullying on CPOMs (online safeguarding, recording and monitoring system) and analyses patterns of behaviours as part of weekly monitoring. Termly feedback is made available for governors via the headteacher's report.

Pupil Voice

Pupil voice is central to the culture and ethos of our school. We use pupil voice to evaluate how relevant this policy is to children's lives and ensuring they feel safe and able to learn.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The headteacher is responsible for reporting to the Governing Board (and the Local Authority where applicable) on how this policy is being enforced and upheld. The governors are in turn responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy via the termly headteacher's report, school monitoring visits and focus groups with pupils. Should a parent/carer wish to pursue a complaint regarding bullying, they should refer to the school's Complaints Policy before making direct contact with the Governing Board.

The policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance)

- Respectful School Communities: Self Review and Signposting Tool (a tool to support a whole school approach that promotes respect and discipline)
- Behaviour in Schools (advice for schools, including advice for appropriate behaviour between pupils)
- Equality Act 2010 and schools
- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years (statutory guidance)
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (advice for schools)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying (advice for schools, including advice on cyberbullying)
- Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools (guidance for maintained schools on promoting basic important British values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)