



# Ashbrook and Holmwood School

## Anti-Bullying Policy

Reviewed by	Date	Next Review date
Deputy Headteacher (v.1)	March 2021	March 2022
Head of School (v.2)	January 2022	January 2023
Head of School Holmwood (J Elford) and Exec Head Ashbrook (J Ainscow) (v.3)	May 2023	August 2023
Head of School Holmwood (J Elford) and Headteacher Ashbrook (J Ainscow) (v.4)	September 2023	August 2024

At Ashbrook and Holmwood School we believe everyone has equal rights. As such everyone should be able to say they:

- have a right to be treated with respect and kindness,
- have a right to be an individual within this school,
- have a right to feel safe,
- have a right to learn about myself and to express my views without fear,
- have a right to be valued and respected for my individual views without fear,
- have a right to help and support when I need it.

At Ashbrook and Holmwood School we believe that bullying is an anti-social behaviour that affects everyone. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all members of our school community so they can learn and work in a relaxed and secure environment without fear of being bullied. We actively promote a climate of co-operation and positive behaviour to reduce the number of incidents and likelihood of bullying occurring. This will enable our pupils and staff to reach their full potential. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If bullying does occur, all pupils and staff should be confident to tell someone about it and know that all incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell someone they trust.

**Someone a child trusts may be:**

- A parent/carer or another member of the family
- A teacher, midday supervisor, learning mentor or any other member of staff
- A peer/friend

**Someone trustworthy may be:**

- Good at listening
- Caring
- Responsible
- Helpful and supportive
- Understanding
- Calm

**What Is Bullying?**

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as **“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 or online.”**

Bullying can be the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying is *not one isolated incident*; it is where a child *is targeted repeatedly*.

**Bullying can be:**

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

- Cyber - all areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging & calls, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities
- Discriminatory against diversity - bullying related to protected characteristics (incl. race, religion, sexual orientation, culture, SEND, disabilities); appearance or health conditions, including allergies including those with potential of severe risk to health, or bullying of young carers or looked after children.

## **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 unacceptable. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety. This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

All governors, teaching, support staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

All governors, teaching, and support 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.

As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in schoolwork
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

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

Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. All reports of bullying are recorded and followed up by the class teacher. The class teacher, as the main point of contact, may find it necessary to report the matter to the phase leader or other members of the leadership team.

All incidents of bullying are logged on the CPOMS system. If any adult witnesses an act of bullying, they should consult a Senior Leader who will look into the matter and record the event on the log and Safeguard.

If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we 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. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Headteacher. 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 may contact external support agencies such as the social services and an Early Help: School Based Provision Plan may be decided to be initiated to try and prevent a possible suspension in the future. Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

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. Parents are invited to escalate concerns to a phase leader in school or to the deputy headteacher. If parent's feel that their concern has not been dealt with, they should make an appointment to see the headteacher. Should any concern remain, a parent should contact the Chair of Governors.

## **Procedures: [see Appendix 1]**

- Bullying incident is reported directly or indirectly to a staff member
- Class teacher of child/children involved is informed
- The child (victim of bullying) will be supported as first priority to explore what immediate measures can be taken to ensure that they feel safe and supported.
- In **all cases** of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff directly onto *Safeguard*, our online program and by informing senior leader/safeguarding team
- In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in for a meeting to discuss the concern raised
- **All** bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated, and the bullying stopped quickly
- Senior leadership/safeguarding team will be informed of outcomes for both the victim and the perpetrator
- Help will be given to help the alleged bully (bullies) change their behaviour and ensure repeated bullying does not take place - i.e. through Early Help (Tier 1) and this will be recorded on CPOMS.
- Parents will be kept informed about how their child has been supported. Teachers will check in with parents within 2 to 3 weeks. This is to ensure that all parties are satisfied that things have improved and been dealt with effectively.

## **Outcomes:**

- A restorative justice\* session will take place and separate meetings with each party may also take place
- Strategies to prevent recurrence will be identified; the bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise through our restorative practice.
- If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- In serious cases, Fixed Term Suspension may result in line with school policies.

\*Restorative justice is how we support children in dealing with conflict alongside an adult. More information about this can be found on our website.

## **Prevention:**

We aim to prevent bullying through the development of self-esteem, the raising of awareness of the impact of behaviour upon others and through the expectation of tolerance, understanding and caring. These aims are achieved through:

- delivery of the SMSC/RSHE curriculum
- school and classroom codes of conduct
- the aims and values of the school
- the example set by adults in school and parents out of school
- assembly time
- delivery of the RE curriculum
- explicit expectations of behaviour
- staffing levels on the playground during break and lunchtimes

## **Useful links:**

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-and-support/if-youre-being-bullied/find-help-and-support>

<https://www.allergywise.org.uk/p/allergywise-for-schools1>

Flowchart and steps taken at Ashbrook and Holmwood (anti-bullying). [Appendix 1]

