

Anti-bullying Policy

Rownhams St John's CE primary School

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Anti-bullying Policy

Rownhams St John's CE primary School

School statement on bullying

We believe that all people are made in the image of God and are unconditionally loved by God. Everyone is equal and we treat each other with dignity and respect. Our school is a place where everyone should be able to flourish in a loving and joyful community.

Aims and purpose of the policy

- To ensure a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment, discrimination or any type of bullying behaviour.
- To create an environment where all are treated with dignity and respect and where all members of the school community understand that bullying is not acceptable.
- To ensure a consistent approach to preventing, challenging and responding to incidents of bullying that occur.
- To inform pupils and parents of the school's expectations and to foster a productive partnership which helps to maintain a bullying-free environment.
- To outline our commitment to continuously improving our approach to tackling bullying by regularly monitoring and reviewing the impact of our preventative measures.

Related policies

The following policies are related to the Anti-bullying Policy and should be read in conjunction:

- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying child-friendly leaflet

1. Definition of bullying

Bullying is hurtful, unkind or threatening behaviour which is deliberate and repeated. Bullying can be carried out by an individual or a group of people towards another individual or group, where the bully or bullies hold more power than those being bullied. If bullying is allowed, it harms the perpetrator, the target and the whole school community and its secure and happy environment.

The nature of bullying can be:

- Physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, pushing or inappropriate/unwanted physical contact)
- Verbal (e.g. name calling, ridicule, comments)
- Cyber (e.g. messaging, social media, email)
- Emotional/indirect/segregation (e.g. excluding someone, spreading rumours)
- Visual/written (e.g. graffiti, gestures, wearing racist insignia)
- Damage to personal property

- Threat with a weapon
- Theft
- Persistent Bullying

Bullying can be based on any of the following things:

- Race (racist bullying)
- Sexual orientation (homophobic or biphobic)
- Special educational needs (SEN) or disability
- Culture or class
- Gender identity (transphobic)
- Gender (sexist bullying)
- Appearance or health conditions
- Religion or belief
- Related to home or other personal circumstances
- Related to another vulnerable group of people

2. Reporting bullying

Reporting- roles and responsibilities

- **Staff** - All staff have a duty to challenge bullying (including HBT bullying and language), report bullying, be vigilant to signs of bullying and play an active role in the school's efforts to prevent bullying.

Our anti-bullying leads are:

Mrs Lisa Potheary- Phillips and Mrs Jo Moroney (Child and Family Support Worker)

- **Senior staff** The Senior Leadership team and the headteacher have overall responsibility for ensuring that the anti-bullying policy is followed by all members of staff and that the school upholds its duty to promote the safety and wellbeing of all young people.

Our member of the leadership team who is responsible for anti-bullying is:

Mr Tim Woodford (Headteacher)

- **Parents and carers** Parents and carers also have a responsibility to look out for signs of bullying (e.g. distress, feigning illness, lack of concentration). Parents and carers should support their child to report the bullying.

Parents and carers can report bullying to their child's class teacher or to the phase leader, if they are unavailable. This can be done by talking to the teacher at the start or end of the day or by contacting the school office to arrange a convenient time to discuss concerns.

The school telephone number is: 023 80 736417.

- **Pupils** Pupils should not take part in any kind of bullying and should watch out for signs of bullying among their peers. Pupils should never be bystanders to incidents of bullying - they should offer support to the victim and encourage them to report it.

Pupils can report bullying to their class teacher, learning support assistant, to our child and family support worker, one of our trained ELSAs or any member of the leadership team.

3. Responding to bullying

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

1. Staff will record the bullying incident centrally on the school's secure database (CPOMS).
2. Designated school staff will monitor the information recorded on CPOMS, analysing the results as appropriate.
3. Designated school staff will produce termly reports summarising the information which the headteacher will report to the governing body.
4. Support will be offered to the target of the bullying from the class teacher, child and family support worker, through ELSA sessions, peer support or through the use of restorative practice.
5. Staff will proactively respond to the bully who may require support from the child and family support worker, through ELSA sessions, peer support or through the use of restorative practice or other relevant programme
6. Staff will assess whether parents and carers need to be involved.
7. Staff will assess whether any other agencies need to be involved, particularly when actions take place outside of school.

4. Bullying outside of school

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it takes place inside or outside of school. Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at the weekends or during school holidays, or in the wider community. The nature of cyber bullying, in particular, means that it can impact pupils' wellbeing beyond the school day. Staff, parents and carers, and pupils must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report and respond according to their responsibilities outlined in this policy.

5. Derogatory language

Derogatory or offensive language is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. This type of language can take any of the forms of bullying listed in our definition of bullying. It will be challenged by staff and recorded and monitored on CPOMS and follow up actions and sanctions, if appropriate, will be taken for pupils and staff found using any such language. Staff are also encouraged to record the casual use of derogatory language

using informal mechanisms such as a classroom log.

6. Prejudice based incidents

A prejudice based incident is a one-off incident of unkind or hurtful behaviour that is motivated by a prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views towards a protected characteristic or minority group. It can be targeted towards an individual or group of people and have a significant impact on those targeted. All prejudice based incidents are taken seriously and recorded and monitored in school, with the headteacher regularly reporting incidents to the governing body. This not only ensures that all incidents are dealt with accordingly, but also helps to prevent bullying as it enables targeted anti-bullying interventions.

7. School strategies to prevent and tackle bullying

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

- Our school vision is at the heart of everything we do and ensures that all members of the school community are revered and respected as members of a community where all are known and loved by God.
- We use a pupil-friendly anti-bullying policy to ensure that all pupils understand the policy and know how to report bullying. This was designed by pupils and is available on our school website.
- The PSHE programme of study includes opportunities for pupils to understand about different types of bullying and what they can do to respond and prevent bullying. It also includes opportunities for pupils to learn to value themselves, value others and appreciate and respect differences.
- Collective worship explores the importance of inclusivity, dignity and respect as well as other themes that play a part in challenging bullying.
- Through a variety of planned activities and time across the curriculum pupils are given the opportunity to gain self-confidence and develop strategies to speak up for themselves and express their own thoughts and opinions.
- Circle time activities provide regular opportunities to discuss issues that may arise in class and for teachers to target specific interventions.
- We promote the yearly Anti-Bullying week with classes taking part in a range of activities to help identify bullying and recap what to do if someone thinks that they are being bullied.
- Prefects give presentations to reinforce the important messages behind anti-bullying.
- Senior prefects are paired with children who have reported that they are being bullied. They regularly meet, talk through feelings and discuss any concerns with a member of staff.
- Stereotypes are challenged by staff and pupils across the school.
- Restorative justice systems provide support to targets of bullying and those who show bullying behaviour
- Pupils are continually involved in developing school-wide anti-bullying initiatives through consultation with groups, including our Young Governors.

- Working with parents and carers, and in partnership with community organisations to tackle bullying where appropriate.

8. Training

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that all school staff (including learning support assistants, admin staff and midday supervisors) receive regular training on all aspects of the anti-bullying policy.

9. Monitoring the policy

The headteacher is responsible for monitoring the policy on a day-to-day basis. The headteacher is responsible for monitoring and analysing the recorded data on bullying. Any trends should be noted and reported.

10. Evaluating and reviewing

The headteacher is responsible for reporting to the governing body (and the local authority where applicable) on how the policy is being enforced and upheld, via the termly report. The governors are in turn responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the policy via the termly report and by in-school monitoring such as learning walks and focus groups with pupils. If further improvements are required the school policies and anti-bullying strategies should be reviewed.

The policy is reviewed every 12 months, in consultation with the whole school community including staff, pupils, parents, carers and governors.