



South Gosforth First School

'Roots to grow and wings to fly'

Anti-Bullying Policy

	Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read it• Chance for feedback	FGB/Sub committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved	Accessible <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website link• Saved
Review Date:	February 2025	February 2025	February 2025
Next Review Due:	February 2026		

Member of staff with responsibility:

- Mr Adams (Head Teacher)
- Miss Blackburn (Deputy Head Teacher)
- Mrs Catherine Burnett (EYFS Phase Leader)
- Mrs Amanda Logan (KS1 Phase Leader)
- Miss Rutherford (KS2 Phase Leader)

Key Changes to Policy Since Previous Version:

- No changes to policy

Note: To be read alongside Restorative Approach to Positive Behaviour Policy and Relationships Education Policy

Introduction

At South Gosforth First School, we are aware that pupils may be bullied in any school or setting, and recognise that preventing, raising awareness and consistently responding to any cases of bullying should be a priority to ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, it is essential that our school:

- Eliminates 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.

At South Gosforth First School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Under the Children Act 1989, a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a pupil is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their Local Authority's safeguarding team.

This policy is closely linked with our Behaviour (Restorative Approach) Policy, our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, our School Code of Conduct and the School's Vision, Aims and Values.

It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Head Teacher to ensure that all members of the school community work within a safe and enabling environment. We value pupils developing 'respect for others resulting from active listening, trust and honesty' (Vision, Aims and Values).

The four guiding principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage underpin our Anti-Bullying Policy from the moment a pupil enters our school, and throughout their time at South Gosforth First School. They are:

- Every pupil is a unique pupil, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Pupils learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Pupils learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

- pupils develop and learn in different ways and at different rates including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

Aims

We are determined to promote and develop a school ethos where bullying behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, to ensure a safe and secure environment is sustained for all pupils. We aim for all pupils to reach their potential academically, socially and personally through learning and playing in a safe and secure environment.

Bullying Definition

At South Gosforth First School we discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, with all pupils through assemblies and PSHE lessons. We agree that:

- Bullying is categorised as repeated incidents of targeted behaviour, not one off incidents
- Bullying is usually physical hurting, name calling, giving unkind looks or leaving people out of activities/games.
- Bullying usually happens when the relationship is imbalanced.
- Bullying is usually on-going.

Types of Bullying

- **Cyber-Bullying**

Cyber-bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets. As such it can occur both in and outside of school and can include harassment, denigration (sending fake or altered information) and flaming (using extreme and offensive language online intended to cause distress).

- **Prejudice-based Bullying and Discriminatory Bullying**

This is when bullying behaviour is motivated by prejudice based on an individual's actual or perceived identity. It can be based on characteristics unique to a child or young person's identity or circumstance, examples include racist bullying and homophobic bullying.

- **Racist Bullying**

This refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that make the person feel unwelcome marginalised and excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity culture, faith community, national origin or national status.

- **Homophobic Bullying, Biphobic Bullying and Transphobic Bullying**

This when people behave or speak in a way which makes someone feel bullied because of their actual or perceived sexuality or gender identity.

Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that some groups of pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Looked After Children
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
- Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children from ethnic minorities
- Children entitled to Free School Meals
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender

Bullying Prevention

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential in keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies, as well as PSHE lessons, pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument. An annual 'Anti-bullying Week' is held to further raise awareness. E-safety is an important part of the Curriculum and information for parents is included in newsletters and on the School's website. E-safety workshops or information guides (when available) are held to raise parents' awareness of cyberbullying. Pupils are taught to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that someone is being bullied.

Code of Conduct

Our School Code of Conduct and the values that underpin everything we do is regularly promoted in assemblies and displayed throughout the school. Through pupils following these rules, and staff reinforcing them, bullying should be significantly reduced. Our Code of Conduct is as follows:

- Be kind, helpful and polite to others.
- Be respectful of others; their opinions, feelings and property.
- Respect everyone's right to speak and to be heard.
- Work quietly to avoid disturbing others.
- Care for the school environment and those in it by being tidy, clean and organised.

- Use materials and equipment wisely and safely.
- Move around the school and grounds safely and sensibly.

Behaviour Policy (Restorative Approach to Positive Behaviour)

Our Behaviour Policy operates a 'traffic lights' system and TEARR approach to enable our children to clearly identify positive and unsafe behaviours which is used consistently across school, alongside positive relationships, to prevent inappropriate behaviour, and promote positive behaviour.

Diversity and Inclusion

We recognise that bullying is closely related to how we respect and value diversity and promote inclusion. As such, at South Gosforth First School we teach children about diversity and different cultures and how to build and maintain respectful relationships with each other. In teaching Relationships Education we aim to ensure that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. This is further embedded through using 'No Outsiders' lesson plans and texts which promote the message that everyone is different and everyone is welcome.

Signs of Bullying

Staff should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including:

- Physical: unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.
- Emotional: losing interest in school, being withdrawn or secretive, unusual shows of temper, refusal to say why unhappy, high level of anxiety, mood swings, tearfulness for no reason, lack of confidence, headaches and stomach aches, signs of depression.
- Behavioural: asking to be taken to school, coming home for lunch, taking longer to get home, asking for more money, using different routes to school, 'losing' more items than usual, sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.

Responding to Bullying

We will make sure our response to incidents of bullying takes into account:

- The needs of the person being bullied.
- The needs of the person displaying bullying behaviour.
- The Needs of any bystanders.
- Our school community as a whole.

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher or senior member of staff. In any case of alleged bullying, either the Class Teacher, the Head Teacher, or a senior member of staff should first establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and pupil witnesses if necessary and appropriate. An allegation can not be classified as bullying until a full investigation has taken place by staff in school and this is then deemed to meet the criteria listed in this policy (Page 3). If the allegation of bullying is upheld, the Head Teacher (or senior leader) should seek to use a restorative approach with the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) together. The perpetrator(s) should fully understand the consequences of their actions on the victim(s), and apologise without reservation. Both parties should be clear that a repeat of these behaviours will not be acceptable. All bullying incidents must be recorded. Parents of both parties should be informed. If the situation does not improve, the Head Teacher (or senior leader) should meet with the parent(s) of the bullying child(ren) and agree clear expectations and boundaries which would be shared with the pupils involved. Any further incidents should lead to intervention (e.g. through outside agencies), further monitoring, support and punitive sanctions as deemed necessary. Any necessary action should be taken until the bullying has stopped.