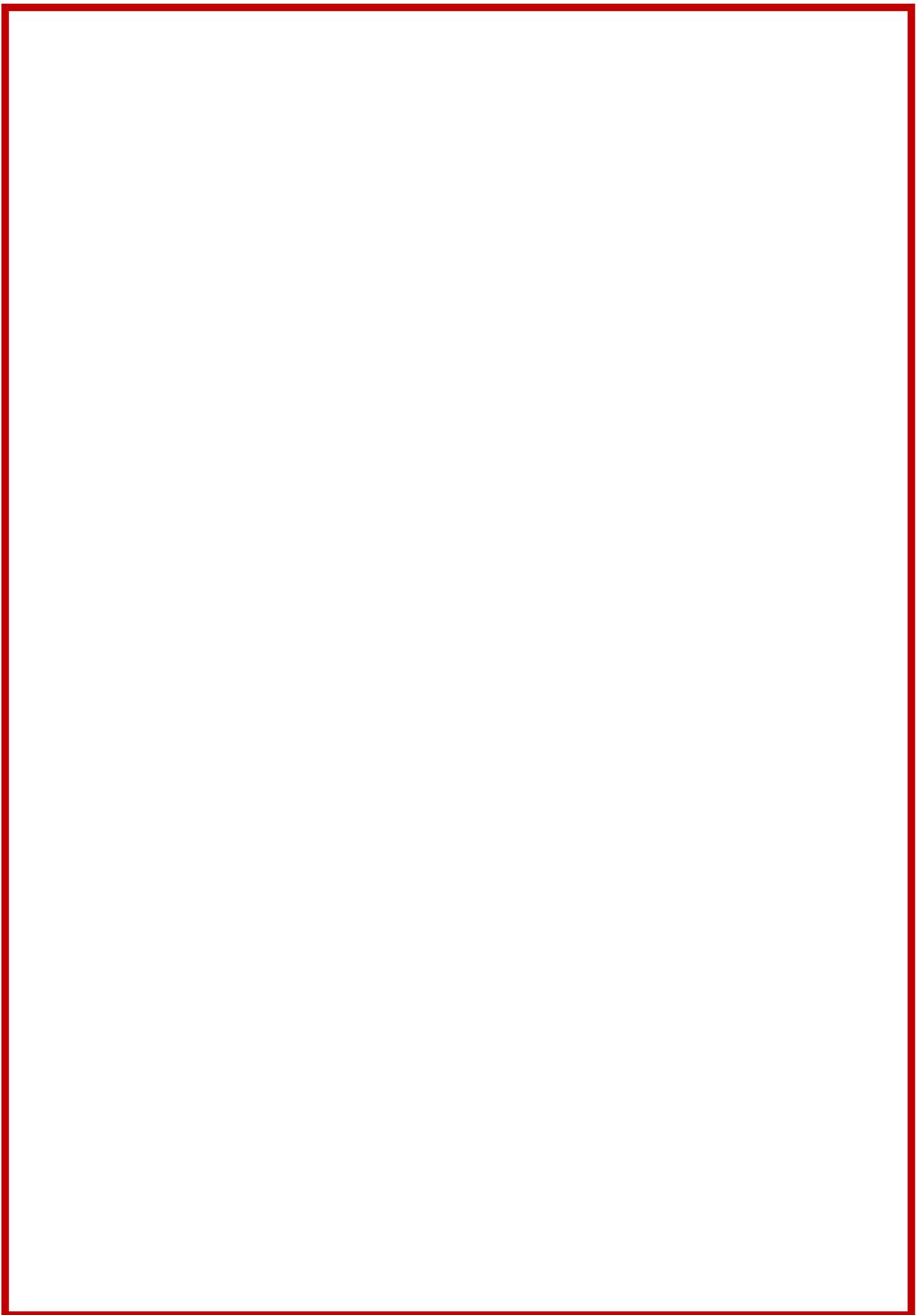
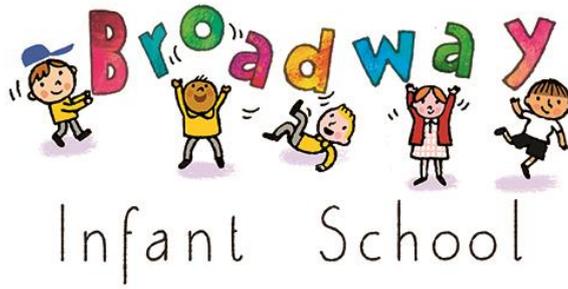


# Broadway Infant School

## Anti- Bullying Policy

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Date of review	Reviewed by:	Next Review:
Date of review	Reviewed by:	Next Review:
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# Broadway Infant School

## Anti-bullying Policy

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## Statement of intent

**Broadway Infant School** believes that all pupils are entitled to learn in a safe and supportive environment; this means being free from all forms of bullying behaviour. This policy outlines how instances of bullying are dealt with, including the procedures to prevent occurrences of bullying.

These strategies, such as learning about tolerance and difference as part of the school's curriculum, aim to promote an inclusive, tolerant and supportive ethos at the school.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 outlines several legal obligations regarding the school's response to bullying. Under section 89, schools must have measures in place to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures are part of the school's **Behaviour Policy**, which is communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents.

All staff, parents and pupils work together to prevent and reduce any instances of bullying at the school. There is a zero-tolerance policy for bullying at the school.

## 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
  - Equality Act 2010
  - Protection from Harassment Act 1997
  - Malicious Communications Act 1988
  - Public Order Act 1986
  - Communications Act 2003
  - Human Rights Act 1998
  - Crime and Disorder Act 1998
  - Education Act 2011
- 1.2. This policy has been written in accordance with guidance, including, but not limited to:
- DfE (2017) 'Preventing and tackling bullying'
  - DfE (2018) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'
  - **[New]** DfE (2018) 'Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools'
- 1.3. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:
- **Behaviour Policy**
  - **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

## 2. Definition

- 2.1. For the purpose of this policy, "bullying" is defined as persistent behaviour by an individual or group with the intention of verbally, physically, or emotionally harming another person or group.
- 2.2. Bullying is generally characterised by:
- **Repetition:** Incidents are not one-offs; they are frequent and happen over a period of time.
  - **Intent:** The perpetrator(s) means to cause verbal, physical or emotional harm; it is not accidental.
  - **Targeting:** Bullying is generally targeted at a specific individual or group.
  - **Power imbalance:** Whether real or perceived, bullying is generally based on unequal power relations.
- 2.3. Vulnerable pupils are more likely to be the targets of bullying due to the attitudes and behaviours some young people have towards those who are different from themselves.

2.4. Vulnerable pupils may include, but are not limited to:

- Pupils with SEND.
- Pupils who are adopted.
- Pupils suffering from a health problem.
- Pupils with caring responsibilities.

### 3. Types of bullying

- 3.1. Many kinds of behaviour can be considered bullying and can be related to almost anything.
- 3.2. Teasing another pupil because of their appearance, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual-orientation, home life, culture, disability, or SEND are some of the types of bullying that can occur.
- 3.3. Bullying is acted out through the following mediums:
- Verbally
  - Physically
  - Emotionally
  - Online (Cyber)
- 3.4. **Racist bullying:** Bullying another person based on their ethnic background, religion or skin colour. Racist bullying is a criminal offence under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Public Order Act 1986.
- 3.5. **Homophobic bullying:** Bullying another person because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.
- 3.6. **Transphobic bullying:** Bullying based on another person's gender 'variance' or for not conforming to dominant gender roles.
- 3.7. **Sexist bullying:** Bullying based on sexist attitudes expressed in a way to demean, intimidate or harm another person because of their sex or gender. Sexist bullying may sometimes be characterised by inappropriate sexual behaviours.
- 3.8. **Sexual bullying:** Bullying behaviour that has a physical, psychological, verbal or non-verbal sexual dimension/dynamic that subordinates, humiliates or intimidates another person. This is commonly underpinned by sexist attitudes or gender stereotypes.
- 3.9. **Prejudicial bullying:** Bullying based on prejudices directed towards specific characteristics, e.g. SEND or mental health issues.
- 3.10. **Relational bullying:** Bullying that primarily constitutes of excluding, isolating and ostracising someone – usually through verbal and emotional bullying.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1. The **governors** are responsible for:

- Evaluating and reviewing this policy to ensure that it is not discriminatory.
- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that the school adopts a tolerant and open-minded policy towards difference.
- Ensuring the school is inclusive.
- Analysing any bullying data to establish patterns and reviewing this policy in light of these.

4.2. The **headteacher** is responsible for:

- Reviewing and amending this policy, accounting for new legislation and government guidance, and using staff experience of dealing with bullying incidents in previous years to improve procedures.
- Keeping a [Bullying Report Form](#) (which is recorded on to CPOMS) of all reported incidents, including which type of bullying has occurred, to allow for proper analysis of the data collected.
- Analysing the data in the bullying record at termly intervals to identify trends, so that appropriate measures to tackle them can be implemented.
- Arranging appropriate training for staff members.

4.3. **Teachers** are responsible for:

- Being alert to social dynamics in their class.
- Being available for pupils who wish to report bullying.
- Providing follow-up support after bullying incidents.
- Being alert to possible bullying situations, particularly exclusion from friendship groups.
- Refraining from gender stereotyping when dealing with bullying.
- Understanding the composition of pupil groups, showing sensitivity to those who have been the victims of bullying.
- Reporting any instances of bullying once they have been approached by a pupil for support.
- Corresponding and meeting with parents where necessary.
- Providing a point of contact for pupils and parents, when more serious bullying incidents occur.

4.4. **Parents** are responsible for:

- Informing their child's teacher if they have any concerns that their child is the victim of bullying or involving in bullying in anyway.
- Being watchful of their child's behaviour, attitude and characteristics and informing the relevant staff members of any changes.

4.5. Pupils are responsible for:

- Informing a member of staff if they witness bullying or are a victim of bullying.

- Not making counter-threats if they are victims of bullying.
- Walking away from dangerous situations and avoiding involving other pupils in incidents.
- Keeping evidence of cyber bullying and informing a member of staff should they fall victim to cyber bullying.

## 5. Statutory implications

- 5.1. The school understands that, under the Equality Act 2010, it has a responsibility to:
- Eliminate 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.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 5.2. The school understands that, under the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998, it could have charges brought against it if it allows the rights of children and young people at the school to be breached by failing to take bullying seriously.
- 5.3. The **headteacher** will ensure that this policy complies with the HRA; the **headteacher** understands that they cannot do this without fully involving their teaching staff.
- 5.4. Although bullying itself is not a criminal offence, some types of harassment, threatening behaviour and/or communications may be considered criminal offences:
- Under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to electronically communicate with another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety, or in a way which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or contains information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender.
  - The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.
  - Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by means of a public electronic communications network, a message, or other matter, that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information through any media, including internet sites.
  - Other forms of bullying which are illegal and should be reported to the police include: violence or assault, theft, repeated harassment or intimidation and hate crimes.

## 6. Prevention

- 6.1. The school clearly communicates a whole-school commitment to addressing bullying in the form of a written statement which is regularly promoted across the whole school.
- 6.2. All reported or investigated instances of bullying will be investigated by a member of staff.
- 6.3. Staff will encourage pupil cooperation and the development of interpersonal skills using group and pair work.

- 6.4. All types of bullying will be discussed as part of the curriculum.
- 6.5. Diversity, difference and respect for others is promoted and celebrated through various lessons.
- 6.6. Seating plans will be organised and altered in a way that prevents instances of bullying.
- 6.7. Potential victims of bullying are placed in working groups with other pupils who do not abuse or take advantage of others.
- 6.8. Opportunities to extend friendship groups and interactive skills are provided through participation in special events, for example, drama productions, sporting activities and cultural groups.
- 6.9. All members of the school are made aware of this policy and their responsibilities in relation to it.
- 6.10. All staff members receive training on identifying and dealing with the different types of bullying.
- 6.11. Teachers will offer an 'open door' policy allowing pupils to discuss any bullying, whether they are victims or have witnessed an incident.
- 6.12. Before a vulnerable pupil joins the school, the pupil's teacher and the DSL will allocate the pupil a buddy to help integrate them into the school.
- 6.13. The school will be alert to, and address, any mental health and wellbeing issues amongst pupils, as these can be a cause of bullying behaviour.

## **7. Signs of bullying**

- 7.1. Staff will be alert to the following signs that may indicate a pupil is a victim of bullying:
  - Being frightened to travel to or from school
  - Unwillingness to attend school
  - Becoming anxious or lacking confidence
  - Saying that they feel ill in the morning
  - Decreased involvement in school work
  - Returning home with torn clothes or damaged possessions
  - Missing possessions
  - Cuts or bruises
  - Lack of appetite
  - Lack of eye contact
  - Becoming short tempered
  - Change in behaviour and attitude
- 7.2. Although the signs outlined above may not be due to bullying, they may be due to deeper social, emotional or mental health issues, so are still worth investigating.

- 7.3. Pupils who display a significant number of these signs are approached by a member of staff, to determine the underlying issues, whether they are due to bullying or other issues.
- 7.4. In addition, staff will be aware of the potential factors that may indicate a person is likely to have bullying behaviours, including, but not limited to, the following:
- They have experienced mental health problems, which have led to the pupil becoming aggravated
  - They have been the victim of domestic abuse
  - Their academic performance has started to fall, which has meant they are stressed

## 8. Staff principles

- 8.1. The school will ensure that prevention is a prominent aspect of its anti-bullying practise.
- 8.2. Staff will treat reports of bullying seriously and they will not ignore signs of suspected bullying.
- 8.3. Unpleasantness from one pupil towards another is always challenged and never ignored.
- 8.4. Staff act immediately when they become aware of a bullying incident; this applies to all staff, not solely teaching staff.
- 8.5. Staff always respect pupils' privacy, and information about specific instances of bullying are not discussed with others, unless it is in a setting that the victim has given consent to, or there is a safeguarding concern.
- 8.6. If a member of staff believes a pupil is in danger, e.g. of being hurt, they will inform the DSL immediately.
- 8.7. Follow-up support is given to both the victim and bully in the months following any incidents, to ensure all bullying has stopped.

## 9. Preventing peer-on-peer sexual abuse

- 9.1. The school has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of peer-on-peer sexual abuse, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.
- 9.2. More information regarding the school's stance on preventing peer-on-peer sexual abuse is available in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 10. Procedures

- 10.1. Minor incidents are reported to the victim's **teacher** who investigates the incident, sets appropriate sanctions for the perpetrator, records the incident on CPOMS and informs the headteacher.
- 10.2. When investigating a bullying incident, the following procedures are adopted:

- The victim, alleged bully and witnesses are all interviewed separately
  - Members of staff ensure that there is no possibility of contact between the pupils being interviewed
  - If a pupil is injured, members of staff take the pupil immediately to the school nurse for a medical opinion on the extent of their injuries
  - A room is used that allows for privacy during interviews
  - A witness is used for serious incidents
  - The full account of what happened from the perspective of, the alleged bully, the victim and witnesses is recorded by a member of staff. Pupils are asked to verbally recount what happened but may need prompting with questions from the member of staff to obtain the full picture.
  - Premature assumptions are not made, as it is important not to be judgemental at this stage
  - Members of staff listen carefully to all accounts, being non-confrontational and not attaching blame until the investigation is complete
  - All concerned pupils are informed that they must not discuss the interview with other pupils
- 10.3. Due to the potential for sexist, transphobic, sexual, etc bullying to be characterised by inappropriate sexual behaviour, staff members involved in dealing with the incident are required to consider whether there is a need for safeguarding processes to be implemented.

## 11. Sanctions

- 11.1. If the **headteacher** is satisfied that bullying did take place, the pupil will be helped to understand the consequences of their actions and warned that there must be no further incidents.
- 11.2. The **headteacher** informs the pupil of the type of sanction to be used in this instance and future sanctions if the bullying continues.
- 11.3. If possible, the **headteacher** will attempt reconciliation and will obtain a genuine apology from the bully. This will either be in writing to the victim (and/or witnesses if appropriate), or face-to-face, but only with the victim's full consent. Discretion is used here; victims will never feel pressured into a face-to-face meeting with the bully.
- 11.4. Parents are informed of bullying incidents and what action is being taken.
- 11.5. The **teacher** informally monitors the pupils involved over the next **half-term**.

## 12. Support

- 12.1. For a month after the initial complaint of bullying, the **teacher / year group HLTA** holds an informal discussion, on a **weekly** basis, to check whether the bullying has stopped.
- 12.2. If necessary, group dynamics are broken up by members of staff by assigning places in classes.
- 12.3. The victim is encouraged to tell a trusted adult in school if bullying is repeated.

- 12.4. The victim is encouraged to broaden their friendship groups by joining lunchtime or after-school club or activity.
- 12.5. The school, particularly the **DSL**, will work with the victim to build resilience, e.g. by offering emotional therapy.
- 12.6. The school will work with the perpetrator regarding any underlying mental health or emotional wellbeing problems.

### 13. Follow-up support

- 13.1. The progress of both the bully and the victim are monitored by their **teachers**.
- 13.2. One-on-one sessions to discuss how the victim and bully are progressing may be appropriate.
- 13.3. If appropriate, follow-up correspondence is arranged with parents.
- 13.4. Pupils who have been bullied are supported in the following ways:
  - Being listened to
  - Having opportunities to speak to trusted staff members
  - Being reassured
  - Being offered continued support
- 13.5. Pupils who have bullied others are supported in the following ways:
  - Receiving a consequence for their actions
  - Being able to discuss what happened
  - Being helped to reflect on why they became involved
  - Being helped to understand what they did wrong and why they need to change their behaviour
  - Appropriate assistance from parents
- 13.6. Pupils who have been bullied will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and the **DSL** will, if necessary, refer the victim of bullying to CAMHS.
- 13.7. In cases where the effects of bullying are so severe that the pupil cannot successfully reintegrate back into the school, the **headteacher** and **DSL** will look to transfer the pupil to another mainstream school.
- 13.8. Where a child has developed such complex needs that alternative provision is required, the pupil who has been the victim of bullying, their parents, the **headteacher** and **DSL** will meet to discuss the use of alternative provision.

### 14. Bullying outside of school

- 14.1. The **headteacher** has a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006

gives the **headteacher** the power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises, and therefore, not under the lawful charge of a school staff member.

- 14.2. Teachers have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside of the school premises. This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre.
- 14.3. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it is investigated and acted on.
- 14.4. In all cases of misbehaviour or bullying, members of staff can only discipline the pupil on school premises, or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the member of staff, e.g. on a school trip.
- 14.5. The **headteacher** is responsible for determining whether it is appropriate to notify the police, or the anti-social behaviour coordinator, of the action taken against a pupil.
- 14.6. If the misbehaviour could be of a criminal nature, or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police are always informed.

## **15. Monitoring and review**

- 15.1. This policy is reviewed annually.
- 15.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is **March 2021**

## Bullying Report Form

This form will be recorded on CPOMS upon completion.

Personal details	
Name of person reporting incident:	
Name of pupil(s) being bullied:	
Gender:	
Year group:	
Form group:	
How may we contact you (please circle)?	
At school	At home
Home address:	
Email:	
Telephone:	

Incident details
What happened?

*Where did the incident take place?*

*When did the incident occur?*

*Who has been suspected of bullying?*

*Did anyone else see the incident?*

*According to the victim, how often does the bullying take place?*

*According to the victim, how long has the bullying been going on?*