

# Anti-Bullying Strategy

## Eppleton Academy Primary School



<b>Approved by:</b>	L Jackson HT (Headteacher)	<b>Date:</b> September 2024
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### Anti-Bullying Strategy

At Eppleton Academy, we believe that our pupils are entitled to a supportive, caring, and friendly environment which allows all of our pupils to learn in an atmosphere which is focussed on improving their life chances and helping them to maximise their potential; this means being free from all forms of bullying behaviour.

We expect our pupils to act safely, and feel safe, in and outside of school – we do not tolerate any form of bullying and we are committed to preventing and tackling it. We recognise that as children learn and grow together, they may experience fallouts with their peers, but we are committed to supporting our pupils to resolve these and stop them from progressing to bullying behaviours. If an incident of bullying does occur, we believe our pupils, parents/carers and staff should feel confident in reporting it and know that all incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Bullying will never be tolerated at our school.

At Eppleton Academy, we encourage open discussions around differences between people through our 'No Outsiders' approach. This is centred around the belief that everyone is welcome in school, that no one is the same, but everyone is equal. We actively challenge prejudice, and we celebrate diversity. All staff, parents/carers and pupils work together to prevent and reduce any instances of bullying at the school. There is a zero tolerance policy for bullying at Eppleton Academy.

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.

### Definition of Bullying (taken from our Behaviour Policy)

**Bullying** is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial</li> <li>• Faith-based</li> <li>• Gendered (sexist)</li> <li>• Homophobic/biphobic</li> <li>• Transphobic</li> <li>• Disability-based</li> </ul>	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites, devices or via images, audio, video, or written content generated by artificial intelligence (AI)

There is no hierarchy of bullying, all forms of bullying are taken equally seriously and will be dealt with appropriately.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

#### **The governing board is responsible for:**

- Evaluating and reviewing this policy to ensure that it does not discriminate against any pupils on the basis of their protected characteristics or backgrounds.
- The overall implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- Ensuring that all governors are appropriately trained regarding safeguarding and child protection at induction.
- 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.
- Ensuring the DSL has the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the role.
- Appointing a safeguarding link governor who will work with the DSL to ensure the policies and practices relating to safeguarding, including the prevention of cyberbullying, are being implemented effectively.
- Ensuring that pupils are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including online.

#### **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 record of all reported incidents, including which type of bullying has occurred, to allow for proper analysis of the data collected (CPOMS).
- 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.

**Teachers and Support Staff 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, and informing the pupil's heads of year of such observations.
- Refraining from 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.

**Parents are responsible for:**

- Informing their child's class 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.

We understand that it can be very difficult for a parent/carer to be concerned or hear that their child has been the target of bullying, has experienced bullying behaviour or is an alleged perpetrator of bullying.

We ask that if parents/carers have concerns about their child experiencing or perpetrating bullying, that they contact a member of school staff. Initially we ask parents/carers to contact their child's class teacher (in person/via telephone call/via email/) to explain their concerns. The class teacher will take an initial note of the concerns but may ask to schedule a meeting to allow for more time to discuss the concerns in detail. Following the report and/or the meeting, the teacher will make a formal record of the bullying report on the school's Safeguard recording system and other relevant members of staff will be alerted. The member of staff will directly alert the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead if the report is deemed urgent or if a pupil is considered at risk.

We ask that parents/carers come directly to the school with their concerns rather than discussing them with other members of the school community in person or online.

Our school remains committed to supporting pupils and their families in all instances of bullying and will respond to reports promptly. Even if the behaviour/incident which has been reported is deemed 'not bullying,' school staff will still support the pupils involved and help them to resolve any concerns.

We will endeavour to ensure that all parties are kept informed of progress and any developments, but we will also need to show due regard to GDPR. This may mean, at times, that we are not able to provide or share information or updates.

**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 cyberbullying and informing a member of staff should they fall victim to cyberbullying.

**What is Bullying and How do we Tackle it at Eppleton?**

At Eppleton Academy, we have adopted the definition of bullying provided by the Anti-Bullying Alliance:

***“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 or online.”***

We recognise that bullying can take many forms and can affect any child. It is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups (for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs, or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities). Bullying can be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. However, we also recognise that incidents may occur between pupils, which may not be deemed as ‘bullying’ but still require support or intervention from trusted adults.

**Prevention**

We have a whole-school commitment to addressing bullying and have a clear set of values and standards which will be regularly promoted across the whole school.

Eppleton Academy have a school Well-being Team who are committed to improving the well-being of all pupils across the school through initiatives and discussions, they provide a voice for their peers about all things well-being related in our school. The school will use a range of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- The school clearly communicates a whole-school commitment to addressing bullying which is regularly promoted across the whole school.
- School rule posters are displayed in classrooms and around school.
- Taking part in national initiatives throughout the year e.g. Anti-Bullying Week, Mental Health Weeks/Days, Safer Internet Day etc.
- All reported or witnessed instances of bullying in the school are investigated by a member of staff.

- Staff encourage pupil co-operation and the development of interpersonal skills through the use of group work and pair work.
- Seating arrangements in class will be changed and organised in a way that prevents instances of bullying.
- Opportunities to extend friendship groups and interactive skills are provided through participation in special events, for example, sporting activities and after school clubs etc.
- All members of the school community are made aware of the school's Anti-bullying Policy.
- All staff members receive training on identifying and dealing with the different types of behaviour including bullying.
- Pupils deemed vulnerable will be assigned a designated trusted adult and meet regularly to ensure any problems can be actioned quickly.
- Class teachers will also offer an 'open door' policy allowing pupils to discuss any bullying, whether they are victims or have witnessed an incident.
- In known cases, the school will develop a personal strategy to prevent bullying from happening, this may include giving the pupil a 'buddy' to help integrate them at lunchtimes or playtimes or a 'worry diary' to help them understand their feelings and emotions.
- All types of bullying are discussed as part of the curriculum, and diversity, difference and respect for others is promoted and celebrated through PSHE lessons including the relationships and health education curriculum, Computing lessons and assemblies. This curriculum will explore and discuss issues at age-appropriate stages such as:
  - Healthy and respectful relationships.
  - Boundaries and consent.
  - Stereotyping, prejudice and equality.
  - Body confidence and self-esteem.
  - How to recognise abusive relationships and coercive control.
  - Harmful sexual behaviour, the concepts involved and why they are always unacceptable, and the laws relating to it.

### **What does bullying behaviour look like?**

At Eppleton Academy, we consider the context within which incidents and/or behaviours of concern occur. We will consider the motivations behind the behaviours and will take into account the age and stage of development of the pupils involved. Our focus will always be the safety and welfare of all children involved. Bullying behaviour may include, but is not limited to:

- Physical – pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling
- Emotional – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books/belongings, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation, and coercion
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- Online / Cyber – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion etc.

### **How to report bullying concerns**

At Eppleton Academy, we want pupils, parents/carers, staff, and visitors to confidently report bullying and know that their concerns will be taken seriously. We remain committed to supporting and safeguarding all children involved including the target, the alleged perpetrator, any bystanders/witnesses to the bullying behaviour and the wider school community. We have clear reporting systems for our school community, these include:

- Children sharing with a trusted adult - We encourage children to report any incidents of bullying to any member of staff in the setting. We strive to create an environment where all students can discuss any concerns with staff and feel listened to and supported. Staff will deal with the incident as promptly and sensitively as possible
- Communicating any concerns to your child's class teacher immediately. This could be face to face, over the phone or via Clasdojo. They will follow up the incident and let you know what is being done. Members of the SLT will be informed.
- For repeated or serious incidents the Assistant Headteacher/s or Headteacher should be informed immediately: face to face, over the phone or via Clasdojo.

### **How our school will respond to reports of bullying**

At Eppleton Academy, all reports of bullying or reported concerns of bullying behaviours will be taken seriously and investigated. Even if an incident is deemed 'not bullying,' our school remains committed to supporting all pupils who have been involved and effected.

Our school keeps records of all reports of bullying, this information is stored on our school's Safeguard recording system. These records are used to identify trends and inform our school's preventative work. Information from these records is discussed regularly at staff meetings to ensure that all staff are kept up-to-date and are alert to any ongoing concerns. Our staff use a contextual approach to safeguarding and each incident will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Some of our school's responses may include, but may not be limited to:

- Talk to all pupils involved in the reported incident – this may include the target, the alleged perpetrator, and any bystanders/witnesses
- Talk to the parents (of the target and/or the alleged perpetrator)
- Implement appropriate sanctions in accordance with our school's behaviour policy. These sanctions will be graded according to the seriousness of the incident, but will send out a message that bullying is unacceptable
- Discuss the report/incident/case with other agencies and organisations when appropriate and make referrals to those organisations when appropriate
- Liaise with the wider community if the bullying is taking place off the school premises (e.g., the Police, District Council etc.)
- Keep in touch with the person who reported the incident/behaviour to inform them that action has been taken – this may include a pupil, a parent/carer/guardian, a member of staff or visitor, or another member of the school community. We will endeavour to ensure that all parties are kept informed of progress and any developments, but we will also need to show due regard to GDPR. This may mean, at times, that we are not able to provide or share information or updates.
- Implement a range of follow-up support/interventions appropriate to the situation (this may include informal or formal restorative work with the target and alleged perpetrator, solution-focused meetings, individual or group work with the target,

individual or group work with the alleged perpetrator, individual or group work with any witnesses/bystanders, group work with the wider-school community etc.)

- Monitor the effectiveness of actions taken and reassess/take more actions if appropriate
- Liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead if there are safeguarding issues or concerns

If a parent/carer is not satisfied with our school's actions, we ask that they follow our school's complaint policy and procedures. This is available online from our school website and on request from the school office.

### **How we Offer Support to All Pupils Involved**

The progress of both the bully and the victim are monitored by their teachers. If appropriate, follow-up correspondence is arranged with parents/carer after the incident. The timescale will be determined on an individual case basis agreed by all parties.

Pupils who have been bullied are supported in the following ways:

- Being listened to
- Having an immediate opportunity to meet with a designated member of staff (trusted adult)
- Being reassured
- Being offered continued support
- Being offered counselling, where appropriate

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/carers

### **Links to Other Policies**

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy (Including Peer on Peer Abuse)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Relationships and Health Education Policy
- Attendance and Exclusion Policy