Woodview School

Pupil Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Procedure

Woodview School
Crockenhill Road
Orpington
Bromley
BR5 4EP

Email: woodviewschool@aspriscs.co.uk

September 2024

<u>Definition</u>

Bullying is "behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally". (DfE "Preventing and Tackling Bullying", July 2017)

- Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.
- Bullying can be a form of peer on peer abuse and can be emotionally abusive; it can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.

<u>Forms of Bullying</u>

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including :

- Bullying related to protected characteristics.
- Bullying related to race, religion, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability)
- Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic bullying)
- Bullying related to gender/ change of gender
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying.

<u>School Ethos</u>

Woodview School recognises that bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing. By effectively preventing and tackling bullying, our schools can help to create safe, disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential. Learning about the British Values, specifically Respect and Tolerance, will support the school's ethos and values in this area. It is also addresses by the school's focus on Mental Health and wellbeing.

Our Community:
Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships, to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.

- o   Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- o   Reports back to parents/carers regarding concerns on bullying, dealing promptly with complaints.
- o   Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- o   Utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

Responding to Bullying

- o   The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school:
- o   If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- o   The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.
- o   The head teacher/ designated safeguarding lead or another member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
- o   The designated safeguarding lead will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- o   The school will inform other staff members, and parents/ carers, where appropriate.
- o   Sanctions (as identified within the school behaviour policy) and support for individuals will be implemented, in consultation with all parties concerned.
- o   If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as: the police (if a criminal offence has been committed) or other local services including early help or children's social care (if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm).
- o   Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is investigated. It is recognised that, any investigation into bullying offsite, will be limited as the events have taken place out of school. Parents will be notified of any findings and will be expected to support their young people appropriately from their side. School can only inform and advise. Any appropriate action in school will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- o   A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded on the day of the incident on the schools MIS, Engage. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
- o   The Behaviour Team will have an accurate and up to date record of all reported bullying cases and the consequences/actions taken from these.
- o   Pupils will be taught about bullying in an age appropriate way and will be through PSHE sessions, tutor times and assembles.

Cyberbullying

- o   When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:
- o   Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- o   Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- o   Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- o   Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible.
       This may include:

Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:

- looking at use of the school systems;
- identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
- Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.

o Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
o Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and also the school searching and confiscation policy. (Note: Schools should ensure they access the DfE '[Searching, screening and confiscation at school'](#) and [Childnet](#) Cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the schools powers are used proportionately and lawfully)
o Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.

o Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
o Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
o Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:
- advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
- providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists;
- helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

Pupil Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Process

Date of Issue		September 2024
Review Date:		August 2025
Signed (Headteacher)	Nicola Craig	