

# Hulme Hall Grammar School



# Anti-Bullying Policy

<b>Policy Control</b>	
Report	Anti-Bullying
Approval Body	Education Committee
Date Reviewed	September 2018
Review Schedule	Annual
Next Review Date	September 2019

This is a whole school policy and also refers to the Early Years' Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## Principles

The School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all pupils and staff so that learning and teaching can take place in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Any form of bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.

Bullying is defined as the intimidation or harassment of a person or persons against their will by means of any form of verbal, mental or physical abuse, to include racial, religious, cultural, sexual/sexist, homophobic, specific learning difficulty, disability or cyber (mobile phones, texts, social networks and email).

Bullying includes:

- Name Calling
- Taunting
- Mocking
- Making offensive or humiliating comments
- Gossiping
- Spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- Taking or deliberately damaging a person's belongings
- Physical violence
- Cyberbullying e.g. inappropriate text messaging, e-mailing and use of social media
- Racist, religious, sexual, sexist, homophobic, special educational needs or disability related language and comments

Peer on peer abuse - All staff are made aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse.

This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying)
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence and sexual harassment
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.

All staff have received updating training on how to recognise and report peer on peer abuse.

## Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour:

- Becoming shy and nervous
- Pretending to be ill
- Taking unusual absences or complaining of feeling ill in the morning
- Seeking attention from adults
- Changes in work patterns- begin to do poorly at school

- A lack of concentration
- truancy
- attempting/committing suicide in the most extreme cases
- stops eating/ “binge” eating
- is bullying other children/siblings
- is afraid to use the internet/mobile phone

When there is reasonable cause to believe that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Reference will be made to the safeguarding policy and reporting child protection procedure.

## **What to do?**

Any person subjected to, or any person who suspects any aspect of bullying behaviour, must inform the person in charge immediately.

All claims of bullying behaviour must be reported to/by the person in charge promptly and efficiently.

Any adult (defined as parent, teacher or member of staff) who witnesses bullying behaviour has a duty to report it to the Headteacher or a member of the SLT.

All reported incidents of bullying should be:

- a. referred to the Headteacher or SLT and investigated. The Headteacher, SLT, or Key Stage Manager will interview the victim, witnesses and alleged bully and a written record will be made to enable any patterns to be identified.
- b. recorded in the pupils' personal files.

\* For the JLC pupils, the Head of the Junior learning Centre will investigate the matter and forward a written report, with recommendations, to the Headteacher.

The parents of all pupils involved (ie. alleged victims and perpetrators) are to be informed on the day of the disclosure in person or by any other means of communication.

## **Seriousness of Bullying**

The potential for bullying to cause serious psychological damage or in extreme cases, suicide, must not be underestimated. Whilst bullying is not a specific, criminal offence, there are criminal laws which apply to harassment and threatening behaviour.

## **Sanctions**

If a reported incident of bullying behaviour, upon investigation is proven:

- a. the parents are to be informed on the day of conclusion;
- b. the incident details are to be recorded in the pupil's personal file;
- c. in the first instance the sanctions are:
  - i. Pupils in the JLC will be excluded from outdoor play on that day by the Head of JLC and for a period at the discretion of that member of staff.

- ii. Pupils in Years 7-11 will be placed in detention on that day and also isolated either from lessons or/and at break times for a period deemed appropriate by the Headteacher/SLT.

In addition, in all cases, pupils will be warned that such behaviour is unacceptable.

Victims will be monitored to ensure that there are no adverse effects of the bullying and that the bullying has stopped.

If the bullying behaviour continues, the identified and proven aggressor will be subjected to the punishments outlined in the discipline policy as decided by the Headteacher or SLT.

## **Disciplinary Action**

The report of bullying will be investigated by the Form Teacher, Key Stage Manager or Designated Teacher.

### **Stage 1**

- If report is confirmed the offender will be interviewed by a member of staff, warned about their behaviour and informed that further similar incidents may be regarded as bullying.  
(School/Heads's Detention may be given)

### **Stage 2**

- Where re-offending is confirmed the offender will be interviewed by a member of the SLT.
- A letter will be sent to Parents/Carer, informing them of the situation. Parents may wish to speak to the SLT at this stage.
- Depending on the location and severity of the bullying, the offender may be isolated at break/lunchtimes and/or suspended from using the school bus, both for a fixed period.

### **Stage 3**

In the case where it is confirmed that the pupil has reoffended

- The pupil and parents will be interviewed by the Headteacher.
- The pupil may be placed on a 'Contract of Behaviour' with clear expectations.

### **Stage 4**

- Any further offences may lead to exclusion from school.

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Incidents will be recorded on the MIS Parents of the pupil involved will be informed immediately. The pupil will be monitored closely using the Anti-Bullying Report system (stages 1 & 2) amber and Red report).

Where no improvement in the bullying behaviour takes place, the school reserves the right to request that the pupil be withdrawn from the school, effective immediately. If this is refused, the Headteacher will exclude the pupil permanently from the school. (See also exclusion and appeals review procedures.)

## **Counselling**

Pupils who are consistently the victims of bullying behaviour will be given support and assistance to develop positive strategies and self-assertion; pupils found guilty of bullying will also be given support and assistance to change their behaviour.

## **Use of the Curriculum**

The Curriculum, mainly through the CPSHE programme, will be used to:

- raise awareness about bullying and the anti-bullying policy;
- increase understanding for victims and help to create an anti-bullying ethos;
- teach pupils how to constructively manage their relationships with each other.

School assemblies provide an effective forum for highlighting such issues. The curriculum generally may be used to reinforce the anti-bullying approach.

## **Training**

Staff will be trained in:

- how to detect suspected bullying
- strategies in the classroom and playground to identify or prevent bullying
- strategies to deal with bullying
- working with all parties including parents.

## **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying can be defined as 'the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else'. (Department for Education – Cyberbullying: Supporting School Staff (2009).) It can be an extension of face-to-face bullying, with technology providing the bully with another route to harass their target.

However, it differs in several significant ways from other kinds of bullying: the invasion of home and personal space; the difficulty in controlling electronically circulated messages, the size of the audience, perceived anonymity, and even the profile of the person doing the bullying and their target.

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Research into the extent of cyberbullying indicates that it is a feature of many young people's lives. It may also affect members of school staff and other adults; there are examples of staff being ridiculed, threatened and otherwise abused online by pupils.

Some cyberbullying is clearly deliberate and aggressive, but other incidents of cyberbullying may be unintentional and the result of simply not thinking about the consequences. What may be sent as a joke may not be received as one, and indeed the distance that technology allows in communication means the sender may not see the impact of the message on the receiver. There is also less opportunity for either party to resolve any misunderstanding or to feel empathy. It is important that pupils are made aware of the effects of their actions.

In cyberbullying, bystanders can easily become perpetrators, e.g. by passing on or showing to others images designed to humiliate, or by taking part in online polls or discussion groups. They may not recognise themselves as participating in bullying but their involvement compounds the misery for the person targeted. It is important that pupils are aware that their actions can have severe and distressing consequences, and that participating in such activity will not be tolerated. Pupils acting as accessories', who actively support cyberbullying will be dealt with under the terms of the Anti-Bullying Policy.

The School has a duty of care to support pupils whose wellbeing and education have been affected by any form of bullying. The School will investigate reported incidents and work closely with pupils and their families to educate all parties in strategies to prevent incidents of bullying, including the responsible use and monitoring of digital technology, with the assistance of outside agencies, such as CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) and the Police if appropriate.

## Contact Details

**Childline:** 0800 1111

**Kidscape:** [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

**Kidscape Parents' Helpline:** 08451 205 204

**Youth2Youth** confidential helpline for young people: 0208 896 3675

**CEOP** (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre): [www.thinkuknow.org.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.org.uk)

This website has some excellent resources, advice and activities for parents, teachers and children from 7 – 18.

**Digizen** (Digital Citizenship advice and resources for adults and children): [www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)

## Review of this policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and/or in the light of any incident that may occur related to bullying. Part of the review will involve consideration of instances of bullying during the year, any trends and actions that the school can take to prevent bullying in the future.



**Interim Headteachers: Philip Bradford BA Hons & Jackie Smith B.Ed Hons**  
**Hulme Hall Grammar School, Beech Avenue, Stockport, SK3 8HA**  
**Phone: 0161 485 3524**



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