



SELBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Reviewed by school	December 2025
Adopted at the Governing Body meeting held on	N/A
Next review date	December 2027

Introduction

At Selborne Primary School, we are aware that pupils could 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
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

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 Policy, our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, our School Code of Conduct and the School's Vision, Aims and Values.

At Selborne Primary 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. This policy is closely linked with our Behaviour Policy, our Safeguarding Policy and our rules.

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 Selborne Primary School, we discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, with all pupils through year group discussions, circle time and PSHE lessons. We agree that:

- Bullying is usually physical hurting, name calling, nasty looks or leaving people out.
- Bullying usually happens when the relationship is imbalanced.
- Bullying is usually on-going and repeated.

"Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally."

"...bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. This could involve perpetrators of bullying having control over the relationship which makes it difficult for those they bully to defend themselves. The imbalance of power can manifest itself in several ways, it may be physical, psychological (knowing what upsets someone), derive from an intellectual imbalance, or by having access to the support of a group, or the capacity to socially isolate. It can result in the intimidation of a person or persons through the threat of violence or by isolating them either physically or online." *Preventing and tackling bullying, advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies. DofE October 2017*

Types of Bullying

Cyber-Bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a medium for 'virtual bullying', which can occur in and outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen beyond the school day into home and private space, including on our online learning platforms, phones, iPad/tablet and chat features on games consoles. This involves a potentially bigger audience and more accessories as people forward on content and use features such as the "chat" options.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62611456e90e07168ad2b1ea/Cyberbullying_Advice_for_Headteachers_and_School_Staff_121114.pdf

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

This occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian, gay or bisexual people; or use of discriminatory language about someone's perceived sexual orientation 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 who are from financially disadvantaged homes.
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual

Bullying Prevention

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is an essential to keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through year group assemblies as well as PSHE lessons (including RSE) and circle time, 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, play-fighting/wrestling (which is not permitted at Selborne) or a one-off argument. Pupils are taught and encouraged to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that someone is being bullied. Pupils are also taught that the school's Learning, Behaviour Support Worker is there for all pupils as another adult to report any bullying to.

We proactively work to prevent situations of bullying. Staff gather intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and develop strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. Children are encouraged to write down what has happened. This might involve talking to pupils about issues of difference, perhaps in lessons, through dedicated events or projects, or through year group assemblies. Staff themselves will be able to determine what will work best for their pupils, depending on

the particular issues they need to address. They report any issues on 'My Concerns' and meet with families.

Our ethos promotes high standards of good behaviour where pupils treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. Values of respect for staff and other pupils; an understanding of the value of education, and a clear understanding of how our actions affect others, permeate the whole school environment and are reinforced by staff, parents and older pupils who set a good example to the rest.

Behaviour Policy

Our Behaviour Policy includes rewards and sanctions which are used consistently, alongside positive relationships, to prevent inappropriate behaviour, and promote positive behaviour.

Responding to Bullying

To deal with all incidents in a consistent manner, staff follow these guidelines:

- Each incident of bullying will be fully investigated
- If it is felt necessary, the child or children will be withdrawn from the remainder of the break or lunchtime and asked to sit in a separate area
- When bullying occurs, both bully and victim are asked to write down what has happened and then talked with separately by a year leader or senior leader. The person who bullied is helped to recognise and acknowledge his/her unacceptable behaviour
- The above situation is then monitored by the class teacher with liaison taking place between the class teacher, teachers on duty and SMSAs
- The senior leader informs parents of the child doing the bullying and they are asked to come into school. The parents of the child being bullied (the victim) will also be informed.
- All incidents are to be recorded online on the 'My Concerns' online platform.
- A child may also have certain privileges removed. If there is no improvement in their behaviour, if a child is a danger to themselves, others or school property, the child may be excluded from the playground at lunchtime thus having to spend the lunchtime with staff.
- In cases of bullying the individual may be spoken to by the head teacher or the deputy/assistant head in her absence. Their parents will be informed and appropriate sanctions will be applied as per the school Behaviour and Sanctions Policy to support improved behaviour from the perpetrator. Any sanctions applied will only be shared with the perpetrator's parents/carers, not with the victim/any other pupil's parent or carer.
- If thought necessary, school may seek advice from social services and / or the police.

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years

Advice for Headteachers

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/625ee64cd3bf7f6004339db8/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62611456e90e07168ad2b1ea/Cyberbullying_Advice_for_Headteachers_and_School_Staff_121114.pdf

