

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

for

Wentworth Primary School



Reviewed January 2025
Next Review: January 2028

Anti-Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

At Wentworth we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of repeated aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical repeated pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Disability taunts, gestures, name calling, being unfriendly
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging and calls
Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous and jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to any staff, deputy to monitor incidents
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. Racist or homophobic incidents will be recorded by the headteacher
4. Lunchtime bullying must be reported to the child's Class Teacher
5. In some cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
6. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
7. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
8. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise and if appropriate, make some level of reparation. Other consequences such as removal from the playground for a set period of time, or extra supervision on arrival and departure, may take place.
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
3. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled

4. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

We will use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school and classroom rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- R Time
- Peer Mediation
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- posters in all class bases about internet safety
- teachers to raise awareness of cyber, internet and mobile phone bullying
- raising awareness of those with differences eg: disability, race, gender
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly (an awareness week)
- making up role-plays and drama activities
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- taking part in anti-bullying weeks to raise awareness

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) Adviceline	0300 0115 142
Children's Legal Centre Colchester	01206 877910
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	020 7730 3300
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk
Childnet - a range of resources for primary and secondary schools, for children and young people, for teachers and for parents www.childnet.com	
Childline - free 24 hour helpline for children and young people.	0800 1111
Kidscape - run a telephone advice line exclusively for parents and carers giving advice about bullying. Tel: 08451 205 204 (10am-4pm weekdays). www.kidscape.org.uk	08451 205 204
Cyberbullying.org - one of the first websites set up in this area, for young people, providing advice around preventing and taking action against cyberbullying. A Canadian-based site (www.cyberbullying.org).	
Chatdanger - a website that informs about the potential dangers online (including bullying), and advice on how to stay safe while chatting (www.chatdanger.com).	
Anti-Bullying Alliance - the Alliance brings together over 60 organisations into one network with the aim of reducing bullying. Their website has a parents section with links to recommended organisations who can help with bullying issues (www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)	