



Anti-bullying Policy

Document Owner	Dale Johnson, Principal
Effective from	September 2025
New Review Date	August 2026

1. Introduction

At Sunnyside Primary School, we are committed to creating an environment where all pupils feel safe, valued and respected. We recognise that bullying can occur in any school and we take a proactive approach to prevention and response. This policy is based on the Department for Education statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025), the non-statutory guidance Preventing and tackling bullying (DfE, 2017, updated), the Equality Act 2010, and the Children Act 1989. It should be read alongside our Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and our School Vision and Values.

Sunnyside Primary School is proud to be a member of the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This means we actively work to reduce bullying through whole-school approaches, staff training, pupil voice and curriculum development. We promote inclusivity and kindness and commit to evidence-based practice in managing and preventing bullying.

2. Aims

- To ensure all pupils can learn and play in a safe and supportive environment.
- To make it clear that bullying, including child-on-child abuse, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- To support both victims and perpetrators of bullying in order to change behaviour and promote wellbeing.
- To involve staff, pupils and parents in the prevention and management of bullying.
- To ensure compliance with statutory duties, including safeguarding responsibilities.

3. Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as:

Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

It involves an imbalance of power and can be motivated by prejudice or difference.

Types of Bullying:

- Physical: hitting, kicking, pushing, taking belongings
- Verbal: name-calling, threats, inappropriate language or insults
- Social: exclusion, spreading rumours, manipulating friendships
- Cyber: sending or sharing harmful messages, images or threats online
- Prejudice-based: targeting individuals due to race, gender, sexuality, religion, SEND or other protected characteristics

Vulnerable groups include, but are not limited to:

- Children with SEND
- Looked After Children
- Young carers
- Children with mental health needs
- Children perceived as different due to race, language, appearance or background

4. Preventative Strategies

- Whole-school PSHE curriculum (Jigsaw)
- RSE and Computing curriculum including Online Safety Education
- Anti-Bullying Week
- Assemblies, class discussions and circle time
- Circle time and peer relationship activities
- Promotion of British Values and SMSC development

- Strong pupil voice through the School Council and surveys
- Annual staff training on safeguarding, behaviour, and anti-bullying
- Playground buddy systems using the Pupil Leadership Team
- Staff vigilance in addressing low-level disruption and unkindness

5. Reporting and Responding to Bullying

All staff at Sunnyside take bullying seriously. Pupils are taught and encouraged to speak to:

- Their class teacher or teaching assistant
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team
- The Pastoral Care and Family Support Worker
- A trusted adult
- Their parent or carer

When an allegation of bullying is made:

- It is logged and investigated promptly
- All children involved are spoken to and pupil voice is recorded within 24 – 48 hours
- A decision is made whether the behaviour constitutes bullying or general unkindness
- Parents of all involved are informed
- Support systems (e.g. mentors, check-ins, pastoral support) are put in place

If bullying is confirmed:

- Restorative approaches will be used (where appropriate)
- Behaviour plans may be implemented
- SLT will monitor incidents going forward
- Further sanctions (e.g. isolation, suspension) may be used if necessary

6. Support for Pupils

Victims will be:

- Offered pastoral support
- Monitored in class and on the playground
- Given opportunities to express their feelings
- Involved in restorative conversations
- Supported in building friendships and confidence
- Referred to external agencies if required (e.g. counselling)

Perpetrators will:

- Be made aware of the impact of their actions
- Be supported to change behaviour
- Face consequences in line with the Behaviour Policy
- Be offered support to address underlying needs

7. Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to:

- Speak first to the class teacher (if they have concerns)
- Support school actions and reinforce kindness at home
- Avoid promoting retaliation
- Promote resilience, assertiveness and empathy at home
- Work in partnership with the school if their child is involved in bullying
- Support the school's online safety work and monitor their child's use of technology

8. Monitoring and Review

- All bullying incidents are logged and monitored termly for patterns
- SLT monitor behaviour trends and report termly to the Greenwood Academies Trust, Education Director
- Policy reviewed annually with input from pupils via the School Council
- Effectiveness of the policy is measured through incident data, pupil surveys, and staff/parent feedback

9. Key Policies this Links to:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Online Safety Policy

For more information about our work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance, visit: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>