



BLAYDON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY STATEMENT**

RATIONALE

We believe that each individual has the right to feel and be safe, to learn, and to be treated with respect and valued. Everyone at Blaydon West Primary School is pledged to prevent all forms of bullying. We aim to create a safe, happy, stimulating environment for all our children. If problems of bullying so arise and satisfactory outcomes are to be achieved, then school and home must work together.

Bullying is anything that is intended to hurt or belittle someone; makes them feel ashamed, isolated, unhappy or afraid.

We define bullying as:

- DELIBERATELY HURTFUL BEHAVIOUR, REPEATED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THOSE BEING BULLIED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES

And have identified the four main types of bullying as:

- ❖ PHYSICAL (hitting, kicking, pushing, biting, punching, slapping, pinching and spitting)
- ❖ VERBAL (name calling and racist remarks)
- ❖ INDIRECT (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)
- ❖ CYBER (sending nasty or threatening texts or e-mails, phone call bullying via mobile phones, chat room bullying, bullying through Instant messaging and bullying via websites)

We therefore define a person who bullies as:

- SOMEONE WHO USES THEIR STRENGTH AND POWER TO COERCE OTHERS BY FEAR

We therefore will not accept behaviour from anyone, whether adult or child, that aims to cause pain and distress to others.

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AIMS

- ❖ To ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.
- ❖ To raise awareness of the effects of bullying through the curriculum, assemblies and other enrichment opportunities eg Theatre Company visits.

- ❖ To encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour and to promote positive behaviour through recognition and rewards.
- ❖ To raise awareness of the possible “signs and symptoms” of bullying.
- ❖ To identify procedures for preventing and dealing with incidences of bullying in school.
- ❖ To identify support mechanisms for both the pupil who has been bullied and the pupil who is bullying.

PRINCIPLES

- ❖ We recognise that some pupils may come from home environments where bullying behaviour is deemed to be acceptable and this may cause them to mirror the attitudes of the adults caring for them.
- ❖ We recognise the need to help pupils and parents to discriminate between “one-off” incidences of unacceptable behaviour and actual bullying.
- ❖ All incidences of bullying will be thoroughly investigated, logged and appropriate support given.
- ❖ The Governing Body will be regularly updated on issues of bullying.
- ❖ LA, community police and other agency involvement will be sought where, despite sanctions being imposed, bullying continues.
- ❖ Commitment will be sought from pupils, parents, staff and Governors in making our school a bully-free zone.

GUIDELINES

Head Teachers have a legal duty under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, pupils, parents and Governors.

Strategies for dealing with bullying

Children will always be listened to and taken seriously when reporting incidents of bullying. They should always be dealt with quickly, confidentially and with genuine concern. The emphasis is on a caring, listening approach for both bullied

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pupils and the child engaged in bullying behaviour – they are often victims too, that is why they bully.

The following steps will be taken when dealing with incidents:

- ❖ If bullying is suspected or reported, the member of staff who has noted the bullying or has been approached will deal with the incident immediately.
- ❖ Discussions with the bullied child
- ❖ Identify the bully/bullies (obtain witnesses if possible and collect evidence)
- ❖ Inform Head/Deputy Head teacher
- ❖ Discussions with the bully about the incident(s). Make it clear that bullying is unacceptable. Present the bully with the facts.
- ❖ If the bully owns up, or enquiries show they have been engaged in bullying behaviour then the school’s behaviour policy will be followed (ie Sanctions)

- ❖ Both sets of parents will be informed by the Head teacher of what has occurred. They will be asked to cooperate and support the actions taken by the school
- ❖ A bullying log will be initiated at the first point of recognition, with a clear account of the incident recorded

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- ❖ Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the incident with the class teacher or a member of staff of their choice.
- ❖ Providing reassurance that the incident will be dealt with and that they should not be afraid to tell a member of staff if there are any further incidents.
- ❖ Offering continuous support through a “point of contact” eg lunchtime supervisor, teaching assistant or learning mentor.
- ❖ Restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- ❖ Discussing what happened.
- ❖ Exploring why the pupil became involved.
- ❖ Establishing that what happened was wrong and the need to change.
- ❖ Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude of the pupil.
- ❖ Support from other agency if appropriate.

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Teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors have agreed to the following strategies:

- All staff watch for early signs of unhappiness or distress in pupils;
- All staff will listen, believe and act
- Information is displayed in school to dissuade children from bullying
- The issue of bullying is addressed in assemblies and as part of our PSHE work throughout the year
- We have an Anti-Bullying Week each year to reinforce the school’s ‘zero tolerance’ approach to bullying

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed annually by staff, children and governors. Feedback about the policy in action will be sought from staff, families, children and the governors. These views will be used to inform and update the school’s anti-bullying approach.

Implementation Date: September 2024

Review Date: September 2026

BLAYDON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL
A BULLY-FREE ZONE: OUR PLEDGE

We, the pupils, all members of staff and the Governors, declare our school to be a bully-free zone.

We pledge that at all times we will:

- Treat everyone with courtesy and respect
- Listen before we speak
- Think before we act
- Use our skills and talents to help others

and above all

- Treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves

Signed on behalf of the Staff

Signed on behalf of the Governors

Signed on behalf of the pupils

BLAYDON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL
Anti-Bullying Charter

We the pupils, staff and helpers in class _____,
declare our class to be a
bully-free zone.

We promise at all times that we will:

- ❖ Help each other to do our best
- ❖ Keep our hands and feet to ourselves
- ❖ Never use bad language
- ❖ Never tease each other or be unkind
- ❖ Share things with each other
- ❖ Never shout or yell at each other
- ❖ Tell others if we are lonely or upset
- ❖ Ask for help if we have a problem

