

St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

# **Kirk Ella St Andrew's Anti-Bullying Policy**

**Building respect, resilience and responsibility to encourage confident and questioning children who love learning.**

Date of last Review: February 2025

Review in: Spring 2026

Approved by Governors 21.3.25

To be ratified by Governors at the Full Governing Board meeting on the 2.4.25.

Building respect, resilience and responsibility to encourage confident and questioning children who love learning.

At Kirk Ella St Andrew's we aim to provide an environment in which children feel secure and free from threat. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying and work tirelessly to prevent it.

*Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally – DfE, Preventing and Tackling Bullying, 2017*

### Legislations

This policy supports section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which states that maintained schools must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils.

The aims of this policy also support the public sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5 April 2011.

The Duty has three aims:

- to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the act
- to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Through the policy we aim to ensure that:

- children are made aware that certain actions can cause distress to others
- children know that bullying will not be tolerated and will be dealt with firmly
- a child's complaint is taken seriously and the child needs to know that adults will listen to them
- reports of bullying are followed up, and actual or potential bullies are supervised closely

### What is Bullying?

*Bullying behaviour abuses an imbalance of power to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people. Isolated instances of hurtful behaviour, teasing or arguments between individuals would not be seen as bullying (Torfaen definition 2008)*

Bullying can be carried out verbally, physically, emotionally or through cyberspace. We recognise that there are four main types of bullying:

- **Physical** - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence or threatening behaviour.
- **Verbal** - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing, making offensive remarks.
- **Emotional or relational** - being unfriendly, threatening, tormenting (e.g., hiding books, threatening gestures), ridicule, humiliation, exclusion from groups or activities, isolating and ostracising someone, 'gaslighting'
- **Cyber** - all areas of internet and wireless technology, 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.

Bullying is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities.

### Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

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

- becomes unwilling to go to school
- is frightened to walk to or from school
- becomes withdrawn or begins to lack confidence
- is persistently arriving late for school
- is generally unhappy or anxious
- has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing'
- has nightmares or becomes upset at bedtime
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying siblings or other children
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- wants to stay with adults (e.g. at breaktimes)
- complains of physical symptoms such as headaches, stomach aches, fainting, fits, vomiting, or hyperventilation

If it is suspected that an incident of bullying has occurred, it will be immediately investigated by the respective class teacher, the Deputy Head and the Headteacher. If it is possible bullying may have taken place, this procedure is then followed:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Step 1</b>   | The Headteacher will interview all children involved and record statements and incidents that occurred. A decision is then made  |
| <b>Step 2</b>   | If it is deemed that bullying has taken place, the Headteacher reports this on CPOMS. The parents of the offending child / children will immediately be contacted and asked to attend school to discuss the matter with the class teacher and Deputy Head or Headteacher. A structured conversation sheet can be used. |
| <b>Step 3</b>   | The child/children will then take part in a restorative conversation and then the appropriate sanctions e.g., loss of lunchtime/playtimes. The parents of the child that is being bullied are also informed.   |
| <b>Step 4</b>   | The Headteacher will set dates for following up the incident within the next two weeks to ensure that the incidents of bullying have been eradicated. If this is not the case, then Stage 5.   |
| <b>If the bullying type behaviours persist even after appropriate support has been put in place, then the school behaviour policy will be followed.</b> |  |

### Support

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- being reassured by the adults at school that bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated
- being offered an opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff and sharing their ideas for a way forward
- taking part in activities that promote confidence and high self-esteem

Pupils who have bullied and/or have been accused of bullying will be supported by:

- the use of restorative conversation to support any unmet needs, to build resilience and to promote equality
- informing parents or guardians so that they can further support their child

#### Control measures in place to prevent bullying

As a school we use the following systems to prevent bullying:

- a behaviour policy that prompts respect, resilience and responsibility
- celebrating differences which is taught directly through our PSHE (Jigsaw) and RE curriculums as well as special themed days such as our Neurodiversity Day
- pupils are made aware of our Anti-Bullying Policy at the start of the academic year in assemblies
- a safe environment is created in the playground through careful adult supervision
- actively engaging pupils in School Council meetings which involve the process of developing and monitoring the school Anti-Bullying Policy
- a worry box in each classroom to allow children to voice their concerns
- an emotional check-in in each classroom to be used throughout the day
- events in the school calendar to raise awareness of the negative consequences of bullying (e.g., Anti-Bullying Week, inclusion in assembly themes when relevant).
- the PSHE curriculum (Jigsaw) to discuss aspects of bullying
- regularly reinforcing our core values of respect, resilience and responsibility
- tracking and monitoring pupil's opinions through pupil voice questionnaires
- opportunities for school leadership to discuss behaviour issues with an open and honest antibullying ethos.
- training members of staff to be alert to signs of bullying and act firmly and promptly against it in line with the guidance
- using ELSA support staff to support children
- building community cohesion by celebrating and advocating fundamental British Values with respect for different cultures, difference and diversity, and by not hiding behind the stubborn tensions of ignorance
- restorative conversation as a mechanism to restore and support relationships and resolve conflict

Children will also be taught strategies to help them deal with bullying:

- tell another child if they think the other child's/children's behaviour towards them is unacceptable
- tell themselves they don't deserve to be bullied
- tell someone they trust - their family, an adult in school or a friend
- stay with groups of people because bullies often pick on people who are on their own
- make sure they tell an adult if a friend is being bullied

#### Support of Parents/Carers

The school places great value on its partnership with parents as an effective means of controlling bullying and limited its harmful effects. Parents can support the school in its efforts to provide an environment where children feel safe and secure.

The following guidelines are offered to parents/carers to support their child:

- watch out for signs of distress in your child: there could be an unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches or stomach aches, equipment that has gone missing, request for extra pocket money, damaged clothing or bruising
- take an active interest in your child's social life by discussing friendships, how playtime is spent, the journey to and from school
- speak to your child's class teacher or the Headteacher if you have any concerns
- do not encourage your child to retaliate
- any behaviour that is contrary to your child's nature
- encourage your child to make more friends or play with different friends.

For further support please see the list of organisations and guidance documents at the end of the policy.

#### Reporting and misreporting

Care should be exercised by staff when investigating allegations of bullying (whether in or out of school). Investigations should be sensitive to the possibility that actions may have been mis-reported or misunderstood, or that there may be a motive for making a malicious accusation. Efforts should be made to substantiate any allegation before considering a course of action.

Reviewed by Helen Freeman (English Co-ordinator and SLT) and Tara Riley (Maths Co-ordinator and SLT)

Kirk Ella St. Andrew's Community Primary School

February 2025

Review Spring Term 2026

## Supporting Organisations and Guidance

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)
- Beat Bullying: [www.beatbullying.org](http://www.beatbullying.org)
- Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- DfE: “Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies”, and
- “Supporting children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools” March 2014:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- DfE: “No health without mental health”: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-health-without-mental-health-a-cross-government-outcomes-strategy>
- Family Lives: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)
- Kidscape: [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)
- MindEd: [www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk)
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- PSHE Association: [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)
- Restorative Justice Council: [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)
- The Diana Award: [www.diana-award.org.uk](http://www.diana-award.org.uk)
- Victim Support: [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
- Young Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- Young Carers: [www.youngcarers.net](http://www.youngcarers.net)

## Cyberbullying

- Childnet International: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
- Digizen: [www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)
- Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
- Think U Know: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## LGBTQ+

- EACH: [www.eachaction.org.uk](http://www.eachaction.org.uk)
- Pace: [www.pacehealth.org.uk](http://www.pacehealth.org.uk)
- Schools Out: [www.schools-out.org.uk](http://www.schools-out.org.uk)

## SEND

- Changing Faces: [www.changingfaces.org.uk](http://www.changingfaces.org.uk)

- Mencap: [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)
- DfE: SEND code of practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice0-to-25>

### **Racism and Hate**

- Anne Frank Trust: [www.annefrank.org.uk](http://www.annefrank.org.uk)
- Kick it Out: [www.kickitout.org](http://www.kickitout.org)
- Report it: [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)
- Stop Hate: [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)
- Show Racism the Red Card: [www.srtrc.org/educational](http://www.srtrc.org/educational)