



Anti-Bullying Strategy

Updated September 2024

Review September 2025

Introduction

All children and young people have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted, harassed or victimised. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting young people's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood.

Bullying is unacceptable. Our school will respond promptly and effectively to reported incidents of bullying.

At Geoffrey Field, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of the pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere, free from oppression and abuse.

Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone. All types of bullying are unacceptable at our school and will be tackled. When bullying behaviour is brought to our attention, prompt and effective action will be taken.

We are a **TELLING** school. This means that **anyone** who is aware of any type of bullying that is taking place is expected to tell a member of staff immediately. Pupils should always feel able to tell a member of staff when they feel they or anyone else are being bullied.

The school's approach to bullying follows the advice given in '[Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)' and '[Safe from Bullying](#)' documents.

What Is Bullying?

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

The Department for Education defines bullying as:

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

[Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)

Bullying generally takes one of four forms:

Indirect	repeatedly being unfriendly, spreading rumours, excluding
Physical	pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping or any form of violence
Verbal	use of abusive language or threats
Cyber	all areas of online misuse (<i>text messages, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video, etc...</i>)

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

No one deserves to be bullied. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. As a school, we have a responsibility to respond **promptly** and **effectively** to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this policy

- The school community; governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers need to share an understanding of what bullying is.
- Governors and staff need to know what the school policy is and follow it when bullying is reported.
- 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.

Implementation

School

The school community can expect the following steps to be taken when dealing with incidents.

1. If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with initially and immediately by the member of staff who has been approached.
2. A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Senior Leadership Team.
3. SLT will talk to the pupils concerned and will record the incident. Those involved will be reminded of their rights and responsibilities and then lead towards accepting responsibility for their actions. The consequences of these actions will then be discussed and applied in line with the school’s Behaviour Management Policy.
4. Staff involved with these pupils will be kept informed so that any further incidents can be seen in context.
5. Parents will be kept informed

6. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted¹.

Pupils

Pupils who are the victims of bullying:

1. Given the opportunity to talk to an adult immediately and on any subsequent occasions;
2. Listened to and reassured with particular regard to restoring self-esteem and confidence;
3. Offered continued support and strategies to address any issues they may have.
4. Inform parents that an incident of bullying has occurred and the measures put in place by the school to prevent any recurrence

Pupils who have perpetrated bullying:

1. Discuss what happened and how they became involved ²
2. Support in taking responsibility for their actions and the need to change
3. Inform their parents/ carers that the child has been the perpetrator of bullying and what is being done to support their child in making a positive change
4. Be supported to make better choices in the future

PSHE curriculum

Each year, as the children move through the school, they are encouraged to develop their understanding of relationships and emotions. Role play, film, story and discussion will be used to demonstrate situations and allow children to explore the relationships – how they are made; how they may break down and how they can be repaired. Children will be given strategies to make, maintain and repair relationships. They will also be made aware of the power balance in relationships and the importance of telling trusted adults if they feel they have been treated unfairly. Pupils are explicitly taught about internet safety: the dangers and challenges they may face online and their responsibility to behave in an appropriate manner when interacting online.

Prevention

The school promotes mutual respect through its values and ethos. Having a positive ethos that all pupils, staff and parents understand. This is expressed in school policies and practices (positive behaviour management, assemblies, school values, mediation service, school council, etc.).

The school encourages the pupils' voice. We ask children for feedback and listen to their ideas and concerns. Pupils are given opportunities to make choices (e.g. courses in our 'university afternoons' workshops in arts week; afterschool clubs; starting points in lessons and own work). These approaches empower pupils and support them with developing the skills to keep themselves safe and to speak out if they have been treated badly.

¹ Some forms of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the police. These include violence or assault, threats and hate crimes

² All investigated incidents of bullying are recorded by the school so that the effectiveness of support given can be assessed.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness through behaviour analysis and parent/pupil surveys.

Allegations of bullying, whether substantiated or not, are recorded in the same manner. This allows school leaders to spot trends and areas that require attention.

Policies and procedures

- Behaviour Policy
- Written Statement of Behaviour Principles