Hunts Cross Primary Anti- Bullying Policy 2026-2027

Key Contact Personnel in School

Nominated Member of Leadership Staff responsible for the policy: Mrs Nicola Ware

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mr Andrew Growney

Link Governor for Safeguarding-

Date reviewed – Sept 27

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Hunts Cross Primary School Anti Bullying Policy

This policy is based on DfE guidance "Preventing and Tackling Bullying" July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2023 and 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' guidance. The setting has also read Childnet's "Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools" and DfE research into antibullying practices: www.gov.uk/government/publications/approaches-to-preventing-andtacklingbullying

Policy objectives

- This policy outlines what Hunts Cross Primary School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.
- The policy has been adopted with the involvement of the whole school community.
- Hunts Cross Primary School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of children and adults is not tolerated in any form.

Links with other policies and practices

This policy links with a number of other school policies including:

- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Child Protection policy
- Confidentiality policy
- Equality policy
- Online Safety and acceptable use policy
- Curriculum subjects such as PSHE and computing
- Mobile phone and social media policies

Links to legislation

There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- The Headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.
- School Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- All staff, including governors, senior leadership, teaching and nonteaching staff to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.
- Parents/Carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

Definition of Bullying

- Bullying is “behavioural by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally” as stated in DFE Preventing and tackling Bullying July 2017.
- Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, taking belongings, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include sending

offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.

- Bullying can be a form of child on child abuse and can be emotionally abusive; it can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.

Forms of Bullying covered by this policy

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including:

- ✦ Bullying related to physical appearance
- ✦ Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- ✦ Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
- ✦ Physical bullying
- ✦ Emotional bullying
- ✦ Sexual bullying
- ✦ Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying

Prejudicial bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics):

- Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
- Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/ bi-phobic bullying)
- Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying
- Bullying against teenage parents (pregnancy and maternity under the Equality Act)

School Ethos

Hunts Cross Primary School community recognises that bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing. By effectively preventing and tackling bullying, our school can help to create safe, disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Our Community:

- Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships, to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti- bullying policy.
- Reports back to parents/carers regarding concerns on bullying, dealing promptly with complaints.
- Encourages both parents/carers and pupils to report bullying to the school without hesitation.

Responding to Bullying

The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school.

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern. The member of staff will immediately inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure that they are not at any risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision making if appropriate.
- The Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team will interview all parties involved.
- The Headteacher will be informed of all bullying issues.

- The DSL will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentially policies.
- Sanctions, as identified within the school behaviour policy and support will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as the police, if a criminal offence has been committed, or other local services including early help or children's social care, if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
- Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. If required, the DSL will collaborate with other schools. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with this policy and the school's behaviour policy.
- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.

Cyberbullying

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include: looking at the use of school systems, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, contacting the service provider and police if necessary.

- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
- Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
- Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and the school searching and confiscation policy. (We will access the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' and Childnet cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the school's powers are used proportionately and lawfully)
- Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:
- advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
- providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists;
- helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain

Supporting Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include; working and speaking with staff, engaging with parents and carers
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this

could include support through Early Help or Specialist Children's Services, or support through the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CAMHs)

Pupils who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change and completing a piece of work on reflecting on their behaviour (in line with behaviour policy)
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Sanctioning, in line with the behaviour policy; this may include removal of privileges and fixed or permanent suspensions.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Specialist Children's Services, or the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service

Supporting adults

Hunts Cross Primary School takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the Headteacher (or Chair of Governors if appropriate if the Headteacher is the perpetrator)
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns.

- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal hours (including online) the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken.
- Reporting offensive or upsetting content to the service provider where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

Adults who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with the Headteacher (or Chair of Governors if Headteacher is the perpetrator) to establish the concern.
- Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

Preventing Bullying

Environment

The whole school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (child on child abuse)
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related difference. Also, children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities.
- Recognises the potential for children with SEND to be disproportionally impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.

- Challenge practice and language (including 'banter') which does not uphold the values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Uphold the school values of respect, honesty, self-belief, determination, passion, teamwork, equality and excellence.
- Have opportunities to discuss anti-bullying themes and non-discrimination through Philosophy For Children, PSHE, assemblies, school council and themed days/weeks, for example e-safety day, Anti-Bullying week. • Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and support

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to take account of the developments in technology and provide up to date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying bought to the schools' attention, which involves or effects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully and those who have been bullied.

Education and Training The school community will:

- Train all staff, including: teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
- Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
- Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

Involvement of Pupils We will:

- Ensure that pupils understand the school's approach to bullying and are clear about the part they have to play to prevent bullying.
- Regularly canvas children's views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support.
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

Involvement of parents and carers We will:

- Take steps to involve parents and carers in develop policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of bullying.
- Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats, including via the school website.
- Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively, to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

Monitoring and review

- We will ensure that we regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns.
- All incidents of bullying will be reported to the Governing body in the Headteacher's report.

Useful links and supporting organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The BIG Award: www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk

- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk • Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net
- The Restorative Justice Council:
- www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practiceschools

SEND

Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities:
www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send__module_final.pdf
DfE: SEND code of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-codeofpractice-0-to-25

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safetyukccis
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying
- DfE 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

Race, religion and nationality

- Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk
- Kick it Out: www.kickitout.org
- Report it: www.report-it.org.uk
- Stop Hate: www.stophateuk.org

- Tell Mama:www.tellmamauk.org
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational

LGBT • Barnardo's LGBT Hub:
www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm

- Metro Charity: www.metrocentreonline.org
- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Proud Trust: www.theproudtrust.org
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW) www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk
- A Guide for Schools: www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAWCoalition-Schools-Guide.pdf
- Disrespect No Body: www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespectnobodycampaign-posters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: Preventing and responding to Sexual Bullying: www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-aboutbullying/sexual-and-genderrelated/preventing-and-responding-sexual
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying: www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-aboutbullying/sexual-and-gender-related

Note: Additional links can be found in 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' (July 2017) www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

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