Anti-bullying Policy

Date agreed by Governing Body	April 2025
Review date	April 2027
Person(s) responsible for this policy	Mrs S Knowles

Our Commitment

At Beeston Primary School, we firmly believe that every child has the right to go about their daily life without fear of being threatened, harassed, or assaulted.

As part of our **Anti-Bullying Policy**, we recognize that bullying can take many forms, including **child-on-child abuse**, which occurs when a pupil harms another. This can include physical aggression, verbal harassment, online bullying, or more subtle forms of manipulation and exclusion. Our approach to preventing and addressing child-on-child abuse is proactive and rooted in education, early intervention, and strong safeguarding procedures. We educate pupils about kindness, empathy, and respectful relationships through regular discussions, curriculum-based learning, and structured pastoral support. We encourage all children to report concerns without fear, ensuring that every incident is treated seriously and addressed promptly.

Bullying can cause lasting distress and negatively impact well-being, behaviour, academic achievement, and social development. We are dedicated to fostering a caring, friendly, and safe environment where pupils can learn and grow in a relaxed and secure atmosphere, free from abuse or oppression. Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. We ensure that pupils feel empowered to speak up and have confidence that any report of bullying behaviour will result in prompt and effective action.

In addition to this policy, our Positive Behaviour Policy, known as 'The Beeston Way,' reflects our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment where all children are encouraged to be Ready, Respectful, and Safe.

Defining Bullying

Bullying is:

Repetitive Behaviour: Bullying involves repeated actions over time, rather than isolated incidents.

Intentional Harm: The behaviour is deliberate, aiming to hurt, humiliate, or intimidate another person.

Imbalance of Power: The bully often exploits a real or perceived advantage, such as strength, popularity, or authority, over their target.

It can take various forms, including:

- **Indirect:** Spreading rumours, excluding others, or tormenting individuals (e.g. hiding belongings).
- **Physical:** Engaging in violence, such as pushing, hitting, slapping, damaging someone's belongings.
- **Social:** Excluding others, spreading rumours, or public embarrassment.
- **Verbal:** Name-calling, teasing, threatening, using sarcasm or making derogatory remarks.
- **Cyber:** Using digital platforms to harass or harm others, like sending threatening messages or sharing private content.

Bullying may also involve behaviours rooted in racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, or discrimination against SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Recognising Bullying

Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if a child:

- Doesn't want to come to school.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence.
- Changes in behavior.
- Begins to suffer academically.
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should always be investigated.

Responding to Bullying

Bullying hurts and no one deserves to experience it. As a school, we have the responsibility to respond promptly and effectively, supporting victims and addressing inappropriate behaviour.

When bullying is suspected or reported:

- Staff will promptly speak with the child(ren) involved to gather detailed information.
- Investigations will follow school behaviour policy guidelines, with agreed consequences for repeated behaviour.
- Parents/carers will be contacted to discuss incidents that have happened in school and also at home.
- In cases where harassment or threatening behaviour may constitute a criminal offence, police assistance may be sought.

Cyberbullying

While most online incidents occur outside of school hours, we advise parents to monitor their children's internet usage and provide guidance on staying safe online. School staff are available to offer advice to parents on handling cyberbullying.

How We Prevent Bullying

Through our curriculum, assemblies, and PSHE lessons, children learn to recognise bullying, maintain healthy relationships, and understand their rights and responsibilities. This includes:

- Writing and implementing our Anti Bullying Charter.
- Dedicated classroom tools like 'Tell my Teacher' boxes and feeling walls.
- Lunchtime 'Time to Talk' sessions, which all children can access.
- Peer support: Children in Years 5 and 6 apply for the role of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in school, supporting children in the playgrounds at break and lunch time.
- Regular discussions about bullying and its prevention.
- Participating in Anti-bullying week and collaborating with local organisations to share good practices.
- Bullying Information leaflet sent home to parents and carers.
- 'Keeping Safe' information displayed in school and on our website.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

At Beeston Primary, pupils in Years 5 and 6 can apply to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. After undergoing a rigorous selection process, ambassadors actively promote anti-bullying awareness, organise play activities, and support pupils during break and lunchtime, creating a safe and enjoyable playground experience for everyone.

Support for Pupils

Pupils affected by bullying will be:

- Given the opportunity to discuss their experience with a trusted adult.
- Provided with continuous support, if required.

- Reassured and protected through swift and appropriate action.

Responsibilities

- Governors and School Leadership: Review and monitor this policy annually.
- Staff: Implement and uphold the Anti-bullying Policy.
- Parents/Carers: Work collaboratively with the school to support their children.
- Pupils: Abide by the policy and foster a culture of kindness and respect