



# **Anti-bullying policy (including anti-cyberbullying)**

**Date Approved:** Q&S October 2015

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## **ANTI BULLYING POLICY (STARS policy)**

### **Bullying is:**

Persistent, deliberate and malicious behaviour, which causes a person to be upset or hurt.

### **Bullying can be:**

- Being called names
- Being teased
- Being pushed or pulled about
- Being hit or attacked
- Having your bag or other possessions thrown around
- Having rumours spread about you and your family
- Being ignored or left out
- Being forced to hand over money or possessions

Bullying is not when children fall out or don't get on with one another and is usually conducted over a period of time.

### **The aims of the policy are to:**

- Prevent bullying
- Encourage everyone in school to take responsibility for preventing and stopping bullying
- Offer children who have been bullied comfort and support
- Encourage and support bullies to change their behaviour
- Ensure that all children will feel confident that they will be believed and that it is important to tell

### **Parents may:**

- Be asked to come into school to discuss incidents of bullying
- Be asked to be involved in any monitoring procedures set up by the school
- Parents can expect:
- To be informed if their child is bullied
- To be informed if their child is involved in bullying others
- Expect the school to take appropriate action when incidents of bullying are seen or reported

### **Children can expect:**

- To be safe from bullying during their time at school
- To be listened to if they report any bullying and to have it investigated
- Action to be taken against those responsible for bullying
- To be treated fairly
- Children are expected to:
- Discuss and report incidents of bullying knowing it will be treated seriously
- To encourage bullies and those being bullied to talk to grown ups
- To treat others with care and respect

### **Staff are expected to:**

- Follow the agreed policy
- Actively discourage all forms of bullying
- LISTEN, BELIEVE, ACT

## Strategy for dealing with bullying

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too – that is why they bully.

- Discussions at length with the victim. This will require patience and understanding. Remember – Listen, Believe, Act
- Identify the bully/bullies. Obtain witnesses if possible
- Discussions with the bully. Confront them with the details and ask them to tell the truth about the situation/incident. Make it clear that bullying is not acceptable
- If they own up then follow the procedure outlines below and in the Discipline Policy
- If they do not own up, investigate further. If it is clear that they are lying, continue with procedure. Children usually own up if presented with all the facts
- Separate discussions with parents of bully and victim
- Sanctions for the bully may include withdrawal from favoured activities (not lessons), loss of playtimes, exclusions from school during lunchtimes, exclusions from school, depending on the perceived severity of the incident(s)
- It should be noted that only the Headteacher, or Deputy Headteacher in his/her absence, can make the decision to exclude
- Continue monitoring the situation by observing at playtimes/lunchtimes and having discussions with victim to ensure no repetition
- As the behaviour of the bully (hopefully) improves, then favoured activities etc can be reinstated, and the child should be praised for good behaviour. This will rebuild the child's self-esteem, which may have been damaged after being caught bullying, or could have been low anyway, hence the bullying

The principles of this statement have been agreed by all schools in the family group.

## Cyberbullying

### Definition:

Mr Bill Belsey, the creator of the website: <http://www.cyberbullying.org> defined this unpleasant phenomenon in the following terms:

“Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.”

Cyberbullying can involve: Social Networking Sites like Facebook and Twitter, emails and mobile phones used for SMS messages and as cameras.

## Cyberbullying – preventative measures as taken by West Chiltonton

West Chiltonton:

- expects all pupils to adhere to the Acceptable Use policy for the safe use of the internet. Certain sites are blocked by our filtering system and our IT Department monitors pupils' use;
- may impose sanctions for the misuse, or attempted misuse of the internet;
- issues all pupils with their own school email address. Access to sites such as “hotmail” is not allowed;
- adheres to the BECTA guidelines regarding e-teaching and the internet;

- offers guidance on the safe use of social networking sites and cyberbullying in PSHE lessons, which covers blocking and removing contacts from “buddy lists”;
- offers guidance on keeping names, addresses, passwords, mobile phone numbers and other personal details safe;
- mobile phones are not permitted in the classrooms, public areas of the school, or where they may cause annoyance to others and
- the use of cameras on mobile phones is not allowed in washing and changing areas