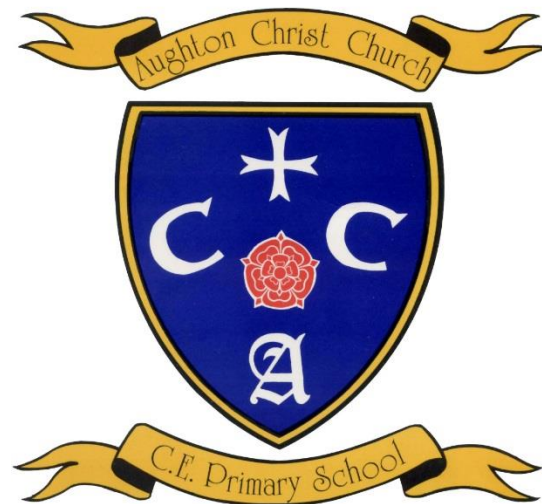


Policy Document

# Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School

## Anti-Bullying Policy



**Reviewed: September 2023**

**Next Review date: September 2024**



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## Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School

### Anti-Bullying Policy

#### 1. Statement

During our last Ofsted, it was recognised that 'Pupils' behaviour and safety is exemplary. There is a great mutual respect and understanding between adults and pupils. Pupils are caring of each other and have extremely positive attitudes to learning. They provide support and encouragement for each other so that all feel safe and learn happily'. At Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School, we truly help each other to learn and to love through our Christian values of Respect, Friendship, Truthfulness, Courage, Generosity, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Compassion which are central to all aspects of our school life.

At Aughton Christ Church, bullying will not be tolerated, however it manifests itself. If we do have incidents of hurtful behaviour, particularly when children make mistakes in relationships, it is the ethos of Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School to give our pupils resilience and the skills and strategies to manage incidents of hurtful behaviour. We want our children to build positive relationships with each other. At all times, we believe that when a child demonstrates unacceptable behaviour, it is the **behaviour** which is unacceptable and **not the child**. In dealing with all reported instances of hurtful behaviour, we will reflect back on our Christian values which are embedded into every aspect of our school life.

#### 2. Introduction

The aim of this policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

#### 3. Links with other policies.

Our Anti-bullying policy links with the following key policies:

##### Attendance

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning and may also impact on a child's behaviour. Any pupil's absence also disrupts teaching routines so may affect the learning of others in the same class.

Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School will adhere to the Attendance Policy at all times to ensure children attend school regularly.

### **Safeguarding Policy - Child on Child Abuse**

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children.

Through our personalised curriculum, PSHE, Christian values and worship, we develop the understanding of positive relationships with the children to ensure our school community is a safe one for all children.

However, we recognise that children may face different forms of abuse and we work together to protect children from harm. As well as being abused by adults, children can be abused by other children. This is known as 'child-on-child abuse'. The school is committed to preventing child-on-child abuse and will protect children that may be suffering, or at risk of suffering harm perpetrated by another child. We recognise that child-on-child abuse is abuse and should never be passed off as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys". We appreciate that often there are barriers to reporting child on child abuse and as such, we understand that even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening. We maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' and act in the best interests of the child at all times. Child on Child abuse forms an integral part of our safeguarding procedures and policies and behaviour policies within school. Staff receive training on indicators for child on child abuse and this is a key aspect of monitoring appropriate behaviour and welfare of all children in school. Please view our safeguarding policy.

### **Procedures for Managing Allegations of Child on Child Abuse**

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School and DSL will consider:

- the wishes of the victim in terms of how they want to proceed
- the nature of the alleged incident
- the ages of the children involved
- the development stages of the children involved
- any power imbalance between the children
- is the incident a one-off or a sustained pattern of abuse
- are there ongoing risks to the victim, other children, school or college staff
- contextual safeguarding issues.

## Online Safety

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School will adhere to the Online Safety Policy at all times and is committed to keeping children safe online. The school recognises that addressing online safety issues should form an integral part of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all pupils will be made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online.

The school will ensure that suitable filtering systems are in place on ICT equipment to prevent children accessing inappropriate material. This system will be monitored and reviewed with any inappropriate behaviours or searches being followed up appropriately.

Further information regarding the school's approach to online safety can be found in the Online Safety Policy.

When school become aware of an online safety issue that has occurred outside of school, it is managed in accordance with the Online Safety Policy and School Behaviour Policy

## Behaviour

Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School will adhere to the Behaviour Policy alongside the anti-bullying policy. Please see our Behaviour policy which works alongside this policy.

### 4. Definition

Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Bullying is defined as ***deliberate*** hurtful behaviour, ***repeated regularly over a period of time***, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

#### ***Bullying can be:***

- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (eg hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic – because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling – sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber – all areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging and calls, misuse of associated technology, ie camera and video facilities
- Prejudice – based bullying related to special educational need, sexual orientation, sex, race, religion and belief, social deprivation, gender reassignment or disability.

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

This policy is designed to ensure that, as a school, we are alert to signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it.

### ***We aim:***

- To promote a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behaviour.
- To take positive action to prevent bullying from occurring through giving our pupils the strategies and skills to cope through effective teaching.
- To show commitment to overcoming bullying by practising zero tolerance.
- To ensure that all pupils, staff, governors and parents are aware of the school's opposition to bullying.
- To ensure that staff will use their judgement to determine if bullying is happening as outlined in this policy and that each person is clear of their responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying.
- To inform pupils and parents of the school's expectations and to foster a productive partnership, which helps maintain a bully-free environment.
- To make staff aware of their role in fostering the knowledge and attitudes which will be required to achieve the above aims.
- To have a consistent approach for dealing with any incidents of bullying that may occur.
- To ensure that all bullying incidents are resolved satisfactorily within the shortest time frame possible.

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

Suspected bullying should never be ignored and all forms of bullying should be taken seriously with intervention to prevent incidents from taking place.

### **Staff will:**

- Foster opportunities for children to learn to care for one another, living out the school's core Christian values.
- Never make premature assumptions.
- Listen carefully to all accounts and investigate as fully as possible.
- Adopt a problem-solving approach which moves pupils on from justifying themselves.
- Talk to the child about any incident and reassure them that telling was the right thing to do.

- Record bullying incidents as defined in this policy on CPOMS and always alert the SLT who will analyse any incidents and actions to be taken.
- Follow-up repeatedly, checking bullying has not resumed.
- Use of a range of teaching and learning styles and strategies which challenge bullying.
- Use interventions which are least intrusive and most effective.
- Act as a role model for children in their relationships with adults and children.
- Do all they can to support the child who is being bullied, ensuring that they find time to allow children to talk about any concerns.
- Ensure that children are well supervised at all times.
- Create a classroom climate of trust and respect for all by praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children.
- Ensure that opportunities to develop skills and strategies to cope with unacceptable bullying type behaviour are given to our pupils through PSHE, values materials, anti-bullying assemblies and workshops.

**The Head Teacher will:**

- Establish opportunities for children to learn to care for one another within the framework of a Christian community.
- Implement the anti-bullying strategy and ensure that all staff (teaching and support) are aware of this policy and know how to deal with and record incidents of bullying.
- Monitor records of bullying incidents on CPOMS and report to the governing body in termly reports about the effectiveness of this policy.
- Ensure that every child knows bullying is wrong and that it is totally unacceptable behaviour. This may be done as a planned exercise or when opportunity arises, through assemblies, in PSHE lessons or during anti-bullying week.
- Set a school climate of mutual support and praise for success, thereby making bullying less likely.
- Inform parents if their child has been involved in bullying, whether as a victim or perpetrator and work with parents to support the child.
- Ensure all staff receive regular training on how to identify bullying and appropriate intervention techniques.

- Ensure the curriculum offers regular opportunities for children to understand the implications of bullying and the appropriate action to take.

**Governors will:**

- Support the Head Teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from the school.
- Monitor incidents of bullying that occur and review the effectiveness of this policy.
- Require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying.

**Parents**

When parents raise a concern that their child is being bullied, it is essential that this concern is taken seriously and not dismissed without further enquiries being made. The bullying incident is logged on CPOMs and is used as a focus of the discussion with a parent so that there is a clear record of the concern and of immediate action to be taken by school staff. All discussions with parents will then be logged on CPOMS.

**Parents of a bullied child will:**

- Talk to the child about any incident and reassure them that telling was the right thing to do.
- Make a note of what the child says.
- Make clear to the child that, if any further incidents occur, they should tell a teacher or other member of staff straight away.
- Make an appointment to speak to the child's teacher as soon as possible. Parents who suspect bullying or whose child has been bullied will not take matters into their own hands.

**7. Procedures**

***If, after investigation, bullying is confirmed, parents of a child who has been bullying will:***

- Discuss the issue with the child's teacher and agree a course of appropriate actions or sanctions in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Talk to the child and explain that bullying is wrong and hurts others.
- Regularly discuss with the child how things are going at school.
- Praise and encourage the child when they are being kind and considerate to others.



**Pupils who have been bullied and witnesses of bullying should know that it is 'ok to tell'.**

**Pupils will do their best to: -**

- Tell an adult (eg parents, other relation, Head Teacher, teacher, teaching assistant, midday supervisory assistant) or go with a friend to tell an adult if they are being bullied by someone.
- Have a responsibility to tell an adult (eg parents, other relation, Head Teacher, teacher, teaching assistant, midday supervisory assistant) if they witness bullying.
- Try to resist being bullied by standing up for their own rights in an assertive but non-violent way.
- Never bully another child in the school.

**Procedures and recording incidents on CPOMS is vital as it allows school staff to identify patterns of behaviour, as often what is perceived initially to be a trivial incident, may be part of a number of incidents which are serious for the individual child.**

***Actions which may be taken***

- Establish and carry out an appropriate consequence for the person(s) doing the bullying, in-line with the school behaviour policy including an apology or letter of apology to the person(s) being bullied.
- Keep all relevant staff fully informed about the incident and about all subsequent action.
- Inform parents of children involved.
- Expect all staff to 'keep an eye' on all children involved, especially at break and lunch times.
- Monitor the situation regularly, including talking to the victim, to ensure the bullying has stopped.
- Ask parents into school to discuss the situation if their child is repeatedly involved in unacceptable incidents.
- Contact external agencies for advice and support in more extreme cases where the above has proven ineffective.
  - Work with all children involved and their parents through PSHE and school activities.
- In some cases, a period of exclusion may be appropriate.

## **8. Support**

*Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:*

- Being offered an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff.
- Reassuring the pupil.
- Offering continuous support with the school's pastoral lead (Heather Croft).
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence.

*Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:*

- Discussing what happened.
- Offering continuous support with the school's pastoral lead (Heather Croft).
- Discovering why the pupil became involved.
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change.
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil. Within the curriculum, the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour. Counselling or PSHE interventions may be initiated as a means of supporting pupils who have been bullied or pupils who have bullied.

## **9. Incidents of bullying outside the school's premises**

Our school will take seriously any incident of bullying taking place outside school and involving our pupils.

We will:

- Encourage victims 'not to suffer in silence'.

We may:

- Talk to the local police about the problems within the Community.
- Talk to the Head Teachers of the schools whose pupils are involved in bullying off the premises.

## 10. Cyber Bullying

The school's online and acceptable use policies are in place to deal with concerns.

Bullying can also take place via text messages, MSN and other means of 'cyber communication'.

This often happens out of school hours but has implications for the parties involved when they are in school.

We would always talk to pupils and parents about the issues and take their concerns seriously.

## 11. Review

This Policy is subject to ongoing review; however, will be reviewed no later than September 2024. All staff have received a copy of this policy.

Policy Leader / HT*	David Kennedy
Assistant Headteachers and Key Stage leads	Fiona Chapple (KS2) Clare Geeson (EYFS and KS1)
Chair of Governors	Neil Heyes
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