



EASTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy

(Ref also Behaviour, Exclusion, E-Safety & Acceptable Use, Safeguarding and Safer Working Practice Policies)

Reviewed: Sept 2021

Next review: Sept 2022



Anti-Bullying and Harassment

Statement of intent

Our school values underpin all we do at Eastington, including supporting positive relationships and behaviour.

Aiming high together to be:

- Kind – show respect and care
- Cooperative – work well together
- Resilient – keep trying
- Responsible – reflect and learn
- Ambitious – challenge yourself

Eastington Primary upholds the right of everyone to be treated with respect, and to be valued for who they are and what they contribute to the school and the community. In our school harassment or bullying will not be accepted for any reason (including racism (related to race, ethnicity, national origin, colour or nationality), sexism, homophobic or transgender (perceived or actual), disability (perceived or actual), SEN, religious or political belief, Gypsy, Roma or traveller).

Definitions

Bullying is any behaviour that is **deliberately** intended to **hurt, threaten or frighten** another person or group of people. It is a **repeated** behaviour rather than an isolated incident. It is usually unprovoked, persistent and can continue for a long period of time. It reflects an abuse of power and can be premeditated.

Harassment is defined as any kind of **unreasonable behaviour** which leads to **aggressive pressure, threatening or the intimidation** of someone else. See appendix.

Aims

- To create an ethos in which bullying/harassment are considered to be unacceptable by all members of the school community.
- To create a secure environment where relationships are highly valued and worries can be shared.
- To increase understanding of difference as well as similarity.
- To apply school values, the playground charters and classroom charters to ensure children are safe and respected.
- To support children in developing social and emotional skills to equip them with the

means of expressing themselves in positive ways.

- To identify and deal effectively with incidents of bullying/ harassment to support .

Prevention

Bullying and harassing behaviour can be reduced and prevented through building an ethos of fairness and mutual respect where relationships are highly valued at all levels. At Eastington we do this through:

- Teaching children how to develop healthy, positive relationships and have positive attitudes towards difference through the PSHE curriculum, assemblies.
- Teaching pupils how to manage their relationships constructively through the PSHE/RSE curriculum and assemblies.
- Raising understanding with regard to what bullying is and how it effects people through the PSHE curriculum and assemblies. (This includes the important role that bystanders play in tackling bullying and teaching pupils how to safely challenge bullying behaviour.)
- Teaching children how to use the internet safely through the computing curriculum This is augmented by Y4 Into the Net play, Y6 regular Online safety sessions with the local Beat Officer, Online safety Officer assemblies.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for actions through signing the school acceptable use agreement.
- Modelling behaviour and words which show we value everyone - challenging name calling and especially when related to a protected characteristic/a personal trait
- Build strong relationships with children so they can share worries/concerns/ disclose incidents through class worry boxes, pupil conferencing, surveys etc. We invite the NSPCC to share positive messages in 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assemblies and the NSPCC Helpline is displayed in school for children too.

Intervention

The school will intervene in bullying/harassment behaviour to ensure the person who has been bullied/harassed is safe and the person who has displayed bullying/harassing behaviours can learn how to behave in positive ways. We take a restorative approach to allow relationships to move forward for all involved. Pupils who display bullying/harassing behaviours may have consequences put in place to support them in learning how to behave in ways which are acceptable and supportive to others.

Types of Bullying Behaviours

We recognise cyber bullying (through the use of technology such as mobile phones, internet) as well as face to face bullying. Bullying behaviour can include:

- **Physical aggression**, such as hitting, kicking, taking or damaging possessions;
- **Verbal aggression**, such as name calling, threatening comments, insults, racist remarks, teasing, sending nasty notes/texts/messages or making nuisance calls (including 'online' electronic contact e.g. cyber bullying);
- **Indirect social exclusion**, such as deliberately leaving someone out, ignoring someone, spreading rumours about someone or about their family

Responding to bullying/harassment situations

All teachers are responsible for dealing with incidents of bullying/harassment if/when they happen. There is a clear procedure when responding to a situation:

- Never ignore suspected bullying behaviour/harassment. Deal with incidents quickly.
- Listen carefully to all accounts. Log events (date, pupils involved, role, nature of bullying behaviour, adults involved etc) using the Bullying Incident Form sheet found in the Head teacher's office.
- Support should be offered for the person bullied/harassed and the person who has displayed the bullying/harassing behaviours.
- Adopt a problem solving approach and record actions taken to resolve the issue on the Bullying Incident Form sheet. The person who has been bullied/harassed and the person who has shown bullying/harassing behaviour should be involved. This may involve consequences for the person who has shown bullying/harassing behaviours– this is to support the person understanding the impact/seriousness of their actions. File in the Bullying Incident Form in the Headteachers office.
- Share information with both sets of parents.
- Always share information with the headteacher. Issues are usually communicated to the whole staff team to support monitoring/prevent of further incidents too.
- Instigate a follow-up discussion one week and 2 weeks after intervention to check that the behaviour has not been repeated. Depending on the incident/if there are concerns then this may need to be undertaken for longer.
- If concern is raised over a serious peer on peer abuse incident/s the designated safeguard leader will be informed and procedures followed in line with the safeguard policy/further in this policy. We may seek support from other agencies such as Children and Family Services/the police – we will cooperate and work together with these agencies.

Supporting those who have been bullied/harassed

Eastington Primary will support victims which may include:-

- Listening to them in a supportive and active manner;
- Not implying that it is their fault;
- Discussing possible short-term strategies that could help them extricate themselves from situations;
- Considering strategies to develop peer support ;
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- Communicating with the parents/carers to explain what actions have been taken with respect to their child;
- Checking the child regularly at break/lunchtime to ensure negative behaviours have not been repeated and the vulnerable child is supported;
- Having a check in with the teacher one week and two weeks after the incident (and longer if needed)
- Signposting families to information/agencies that might be useful
- Considering who else within the school needs to be aware of the incident/s in order that the child feels secure;
- It may be the case that an incidents has an impact upon the whole school. There can be a danger of distortion through rumour/speculation. SLT will evaluate the benefits of sharing information. If necessary, teachers may be asked to explain the matter to groups or classes.

Supporting those who have displayed bullying/harassing behaviours

- The bullying/harassing behaviours will be identified and it will be made clear they need to stop as someone has been hurt.
- Pupils may be asked to consider how they have made the other person feel/why they might be displaying the behaviours/how to be & keep a friend/how they can help others.
- We will try to find a restorative way they can make amends. The child will be asked to devise these – it may involve saying sorry, explaining they won't do it again, making a friendship card etc.. Actions to rebuild the relationship with the harassed/bullied person will be undertaken together if appropriate/wanted.
- Clear boundaries will be set within which the pupil must behave and work so trust can be restored. Pupils will have a check in meeting one week and 2 weeks after the incident (and longer if needed).
- A consequence maybe put in place – see below.
- Sometimes a whole class will have focussed work on bullying/harassment in response to an incident.
- In serious/persistent cases, exclusion may be considered.
- In serious cases/peer-on-peer abuse the DSL will be informed. Support from other agencies may be sought such as children and family service/the police. We will cooperate with these agencies fully.

Consequences

It may be appropriate to issue a consequence to the person who has exhibited bullying/harassing behaviour. These will vary depending on the degree of physical & verbal bullying behaviour displayed, the difference in age/ability/power/authority between the children involved, any attempt to ensure the incident is kept a secret, the motivation for the behaviour, the persistency & duration of the behaviours.

These consequences could include: withdrawal of break or lunchtime privileges; denial of privilege to carrying out useful tasks in the class/school; withholding participation in a school trip/sports event that is not an essential part of the curriculum; withdrawal of access to the school computing system (if the pupil misuses it); asking them to work them to work in another class/with the HT.

In serious or persistent cases, the Headteacher may consider that a fixed-term (temporary) or permanent exclusion from school is warranted. See exclusion policy.

Should the perpetrator be excluded from school, their return will be managed in such a way so as to secure the best interests of both child who has been bullied and the child who displayed the bullying behaviours. A reintegration plan would be drawn up by the SENCO/DSL/HT in consultation with the child and parents.

Peer On Peer Abuse (child on child)

- **Peer on peer abuse:** occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and /or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age; everyone directly involved in peer on peer abuse is under the age of 18. 'Peer-on-peer' abuse can relate to various forms of abuse (not just sexual abuse and exploitation), and crucially it does not capture the fact that the behaviour in question is harmful to the child perpetrator as well as the victim.
- Situations where young people are forced or coerced into sexual activity by peers or associates can be related with gang / serious youth violence activity but that is not always the case. Peer influence or peer pressure is a major factor in the decisions made by young people to join groups. Many young people see it as a "way out" from their day-to-day life and feel a strong bond with their peers, one which they may be lacking at home.
- **All staff** recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers (including online).
- **All staff** should be aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer-on-peer abuse.
- **All staff** should be clear as to the school's procedures with regards to peer-on-peer abuse.

Preventative Strategies

Peer on peer abuse can and will occur on any site even with the most robust policies and support processes. We aim to develop appropriate strategies to proactively prevent peer on peer abuse. In our school:

- We have an open environment where young people feel safe to share information about anything that is upsetting or worrying them-we have class worry boxes to help with this too.
- We have a strong and positive PSHE & RSE curriculum that tackles such issues as prejudiced behaviour and gives children an open forum to talk things through and develop their understanding.
- Staff will not dismiss issues as 'banter' or 'growing up' or compare them to their own experiences of childhood.
- Staff will consider each issue and each individual in their own right before taking action.
- Young people are part of changing their circumstances and, through pupil voice being heard through school council, surveys, pupil conferencing for example, we encourage young people to support changes and develop codes of acceptable behaviour in class.

Expected Staff Action

- Staff should consider the seriousness of the case and make a quick decision whether to inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead before taking any further in-school actions. If the staff member is unsure they can always discuss the matter with the DSL.

Assessing Peer Abuse

An assessment of an incident between peers should be completed and consider:

- Chronological and developmental ages of everyone involved

- *Difference in their power or authority in relation to age, race, gender, physical, emotional or intellectual vulnerability*
- *All alleged physical and verbal aspects of the behaviour and incident*
- *Whether the behaviour involved inappropriate sexual knowledge or motivation*
- *What was the degree of physical aggression, intimidation, threatening behaviour or bribery*
- *The effect on the victim*
- *Any attempts to ensure the behaviour and incident is kept a secret*
- *The child or young person's motivation or reason for the behaviour, if they admit that it occurred.*
- *Whether this was a one-off incident, or longer in duration, it is important to deal with a situation of peer abuse immediately.*

It is necessary to gather the information as soon as possible to get the true facts. We will try to avoid language that may create a 'blame' culture and leave a child labelled. Staff will typically talk to the children in a calm and consistent manner. Staff will not be prejudiced, judgmental, dismissive or irresponsible in dealing with such sensitive matters.

Taking Action

- *Always take complaints seriously*
- *Gain a statement of facts from the pupil(s)*
- *Assess needs of those hurt by the harmful behaviours (victim) and those alleged displaying the harmful behaviours (perpetrator) as both may be vulnerable/at risk*
- *Consider referral to Police or Social Care*
- *Contribute to multi-agency assessments if necessary*
- *Convene a risk management meeting if necessary*
- *Record all incidents and all action taken*

Complaints

The school aims to support all children well. A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying/harassment incident should contact the Headteacher. Should they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the complaint procedure found in the Complaint Policy.

Monitoring Incidents

A record will be kept of bullying incidents using the Bullying Incident Form. This can be used to record harassment incidents too. Categories of bullying are identified as:

- Physical (physical intimidation, kicking, slapping, punching, damaging the property of other etc)
- Verbal abuse (name calling, threats, insults etc))
- Indirect bullying (isolation, refusal to work, play etc with others etc)

The record will also record the theme:

- Disability (related to perceived or actual)
- Homophobic (related to perceived or actual)
- Racist (related to race, ethnicity, national origin, colour or nationality)
- Sectarian (related to religious/political belief)
- Cyber (though technology)

Incidents of bullying/harassment will be recorded in order to establish an overview of frequency and type of incidents that occur. This will support the school taking further action such as staff training/PSHE lessons with specific classes etc..

Records of racist bullying/incidents will be provided to GCC for statistical reason - analysing trends and acting upon these as appropriate.

The role of governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher and staff in the aim of eliminated bullying and harassment from our school. The governing body monitors incidents of bullying/harassment, and reviews the effectiveness of the school's policy. The governors require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors, on request, the effectiveness of school anti-bullying policy.

Aiming high... together!



Annex 1: LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

The LEGAL POSITION

Section 17 of the Race Relations Act (1976) and Section 22 of the Sex Discrimination Act (1975) make it unlawful for bodies in charge of educational establishments to discriminate in the way they afford a pupil access to any benefits, facilities or services, or by subjecting the pupil to any other detriment. Failure to deal adequately with complaints or racial or sexual harassment may result in a school becoming liable under this provision if a child is, as a consequence of harassment, disadvantaged in their access to benefits, facilities or services compared to other children.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Harassment

Harassment is defined as any kind of unreasonable behaviour which leads to aggressive pressure, threatening or the intimidation of someone else. It includes:

- Offensive, derogatory gestures
- Repeated name-calling, insults or derogatory remarks
- Insulting graffiti
- The wearing of provocative badges or insignia
- Dissemination of material that is racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to people with disabilities etc
- Bullying, threatened or actual physical assault
- Cyber-bullying

Racial Harassment

Racial harassment may be defined as any hostile or offensive act - or any incitement to commit such an act - by a person of one racial and ethnic group against a person of another racial or ethnic group due to that difference.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as *making or inciting others to make unwanted verbal or sexual advances, sexually explicit derogatory statements or sexually discriminating remarks which are offensive, threatening or humiliating.*

Harassment against lesbian, gay or transgender pupils

Harassment against lesbian, gay or transgender pupils may be defined as making or inciting hostile or offensive acts or statements, which are derogatory to their sexuality.

Harassment against people with disabilities

Harassment against people with disabilities may be defined as making or inciting others to make any hostile or offensive act or remark because of a person's disability. Specific examples of such behaviour include ridiculing or taunting people with disabilities.

