



Castleford Academy



Anti-bullying Policy

Adopted by Governing Body: 11th May 2016

Review Date: 11th May 2019



At Castleford Academy any type of bullying is always unacceptable and the school will respond quickly to concerns and will take appropriate action, where necessary. We believe that the whole school community has a shared responsibility in addressing the prevention of bullying and intervention. At Castleford Academy, we believe that it is our duty to **“Safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils”** as we want our pupils to stay safe and feel safe enabling them to make a positive contribution to the school community.

Acceptable behaviour and discipline is clearly set out in the school behavioural policy. We encourage good behaviour and respect for others on the part of pupils and, in particular, through the prevention of all forms of bullying amongst pupils.

Definition of Bullying

“Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally”

DFE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” 2013

We work closely with our pupils to foster a common understanding of what constitutes bullying through regular assemblies, within the curriculum and through the promotion of anti-bullying week.

Types of Bullying – (Full details in the Appendix)

Bullying can take two different forms and is carried out in several different ways

Direct

- Physical
- Verbal
- Non-verbal

Indirect

- Cyber bullying
- E-bullying

Bullying may be carried out for a variety of reasons

- Appearance
- Ability
- Health
- Family or home circumstances e.g. looked after children or young carers
- Social class
- Race, religion, culture
- Disability/SEN
- Homophobia/sexual orientation
- Sexist, sexual and transgender

Responsibilities – (Full details in Appendix)

Different sections of the school community have different responsibilities.

- Mrs E Wells and Miss S Longley (Assistant Headteachers) are responsible for the welfare of all pupils and all serious incidents will be passed on to them.
- Year Leaders are responsible for the immediate welfare of their designated year group.
- All staff have a responsibility to be a good role model within the community, to be the eyes and ears of the school and to take the issue of bullying seriously.
- Mr N Hazelden is responsible for the leadership of the peer mentoring scheme within school.
- Pupils have a responsibility to report any bullying incidents and have a duty not to bully.
- Parents have a responsibility to listen, inform, not to rush to judgements and work with us.



Preventative strategies within school include:

- Anti-Bullying awareness - raising key issues through assemblies, the curriculum and pastoral care.
- Participation in Anti-Bullying week.
- Behaviour rules, code of conduct, rewards/sanctions.
- Supervision by staff.
- Support programmes for vulnerable pupils.
- Involvement of pupils in a peer mentoring scheme.

Procedures for how the school responds to bullying:

- All reports of bullying will be addressed quickly and our priority will be to support those being bullied and to stop the bullying.
- The school takes responsibility to assess the seriousness of the bullying and to determine the appropriate action that should be taken.
- We will work to help and support those responsible for the bullying to understand the impact of bullying and to change their behaviour.
- The Academy will determine the appropriate response in line with our behaviour policy and will involve parents/carers where appropriate.
- Bullying behaviour is recorded by Year Leaders.

Parents/Carers – (List of signs and symptoms in the Appendix)

- Parent/Carer role is to share concerns as soon as possible.
- To work in partnership with the school.
- If as a Parent/Carer you don't feel that your concern has been handled satisfactorily please contact Mrs E Wells or Miss S Longley.

Useful links:

DfE Advice for parents and Carers on Cyberbullying:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk>

NSPCC preventing bullying and cyber bullying

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/.../bullying-and-cyberbullying/

Appendix

Types of Bullying

- Physical assault against a person or group because of some perceived physical, economic, sexual, intellectual, cultural or racial difference.
- Derogatory name calling of an insulting and/or personal nature.
- Verbal abuse and threats.
- Demanding money, material goods or favours by means of threat or force.
- Ridiculing an individual because of physical, economic, sexual, intellectual, cultural or racial difference.
- Graffiti designed to intimidate or embarrass.
- Incitement of others to commit acts of bullying.
- Racist, sexist and homophobic behaviour.
- It may involve the use of mobile phones or the internet.
- Deliberate exclusion or isolation of an individual or a group.



What is Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is when a person, or a group of people, uses the internet, mobile phones or other digital technologies to threaten, tease or abuse someone. This is not tolerated at this school.

There are lots of ways cyber bullies can target someone, some of which may be:

- **Email**
Sending abusive emails to someone, or to a group of people, who may then join in the bullying. Sending inappropriate videos and other content or computer viruses by email.
- **Instant messaging and chat rooms**
Using instant messaging and chat rooms to send threatening or abusive messages to someone and asking others to join in. Using another person's account to send abusive messages to others, without their permission.
- **Social networking sites**
Creating fake profiles for people or leaving abusive messages on existing profiles for others to see.
- **Mobile phone**
Sending abusive text, video or photo messages as well as sharing videos of physical attacks on individuals (happy slapping or blue jacking etc)
- **Abusing personal information**
Posting photos, personal information or fake comments and blogs on websites where they can be seen by anyone without your permission.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate, by signs or behavior, that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school.
- Doesn't want to go on the school/public bus.
- Begs to be driven to school.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic).
- Begins to truant.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence.
- Starts stammering.
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away.
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares.
- Feels ill in the morning.
- Begins to perform poorly in school work.
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged.
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing".
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully).
- Has dinner or other monies continually "lost".
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises.
- Comes home really hungry (money/lunch has been stolen).
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable.
- Is bullying other children or siblings.
- Stops eating.
- Is frightened to say what's wrong.
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone.
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber message is received.



Roles and Responsibilities

Everyone involved in the life of the school must take responsibility for promoting a common anti-bullying approach by being supportive of each other, providing positive role models and conveying a clear understanding that we disapprove of unacceptable behaviour and by being clear that we follow the school rules.

The prime responsibility for all members of the school community is to report incidents of bullying and concerns they may have that someone is being bullied.

A) Governors

The school governing body is responsible for the Anti-Bullying Policy and for ensuring that it is regularly monitored and reviewed. The governing body will:

- Support the Headteacher and staff in the implementation of this policy.
- Be fully informed on matters concerning bullying.
- Regularly monitor incident reports and action taken to be aware of the effectiveness of this policy.

B) Headteacher

The Headteacher (George Panayiotou) is responsible for implementing the Anti-Bullying Policy and under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for ensuring that:

- Bullying behaviour is addressed in the school's behavioral policy.
- Bullying is addressed as an issue in the curriculum.
- All staff receive training that addresses bullying behaviour.
- A senior member of staff is appointed to be responsible for the monitoring of the policy and strategies.

C) Staff

Staff have a vital role to play as they are at the forefront of behaviour management. All members of staff will:

- Provide pupils with a good role model.
- Provide pupils with a good framework of behaviour.
- Behave in a respectful way to pupils and help to create a positive environment.
- Always be aware and take action when there are concerns about bullying.

D) Parents/Carers

We expect parent/carers will understand and be engaged in everything that is being done to make sure their child enjoys and is safe at school and they will support us in helping to meet our aims. We expect Parents/Carers to:

- Keep informed about and fully involved in any aspect of their child's behaviour.
- Contact the school if they know or suspect that their child is being bullied or bullying another pupil.

E) Pupils

Without the support of pupils we will not be able to prevent bullying. That is why our pupils will be consulted in the development of the Academy as a safe and secure environment for them to achieve and learn. We expect that pupils:

- Will support the Headteacher and staff in the implementation of the policy.
- Will not bully anyone else, or encourage and support bullying by others.
- Will tell an adult if they are being bullied.
- Will act to prevent and stop bullying - usually this is through telling an adult if they know or suspect that someone else is being bullied.

Pupils must recognize that being a "bystander" is not acceptable. Silence supports the bullying and makes the "bystander" in part responsible for what happens to the victim of bullying.