



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Reviewer: Mrs N Brearley

Reviewed: October 2024

**Ratified by The Curriculum & Standards Committee
on 8th November 2024**

Signed:

(Melissa Young, Vice Chair)

Date:

8th November 2024

ANTI-BULLYING AT CULCHETH HIGH SCHOOL

Our school's purpose is....

To inspire students to achieve and guide them to be confident, articulate and skilled citizens to enable them to thrive in a diverse British and global community.

Our School's Values:

We want everyone to work in a caring school where everyone is valued and everyone values relationships. Our emotionally intelligent school community will celebrate individual differences and people will understand how their actions will impact upon, and be perceived by, those they affect;

We expect all members of our school community to be the best they can be and help others to be the best that they can be by valuing: **Respect, Honesty and Excellence.**

Culcheth High School will not tolerate bullying and will deal with it quickly and effectively. We believe all students should feel safe and be able to work in a caring, supportive environment. Bullying has no place in our school.

Principles and Purposes

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, **repeated over time**, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, physical, verbal, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has carer responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is the School's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical.

Bullying is sometimes a complex issue that requires full investigation of root causes in each instance.

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a medium for virtual bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen anytime, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click. Schools do have wider search powers as included in the Education Act 2011 to tackle cyberbullying by providing a specific power to search and if necessary delete inappropriate messages on electronic devices including mobile phones.

The school's aim is to minimise bullying, promote tolerance and fairness and ensure all students are safe in the school.

Strategies for preventing bullying

- Dealing severely with bullying as appropriate through the disciplinary system. Serious incidents could lead to internal exclusion in our Behaviour Inclusion Centre (BIC), suspension or, in extreme cases, permanent exclusion.
- Providing a caring community in which students are encouraged to work together with students and staff and develop mutual respect for the views of others.

- Peer mentoring programmes.
- Personal Development lessons and assemblies.
- Posters and digital signage will show the school's attitude towards bullying and to encourage students to report incidents.
- Response to student voice activities that identify the types of bullying that are taking place and the areas around the school where it occurs.
- Parental engagement
- Treating people with respect at all times

Strategies for dealing with alleged incidents of bullying

- All students are **encouraged** to report incidents of bullying to a member of staff or through soschs using their school gmail account.
- Students can report incidents to their form tutor, a teacher, a pastoral student support officer (PSSO), another student or any one they feel they can confide in.
- The Progress Leader (PL) will be involved in all cases of alleged bullying – but the victim has the right to choose who to discuss the issue with.
- The victim will have the opportunity to explain how he/she feels and how the bullying is affecting their life at school.
- The victim must know that their concerns will be taken seriously.
- Staff are alert and report any cases of suspected bullying to the relevant PLs.
- If a victim discloses an incident of bullying to a friend, they should report it to a member of staff who must then inform the Progress Leader.
- Students can also report any bullying incidents via the online confidential reporting system, soschs, which is filtered through the Senior Leadership Team for appropriate action
- The victim needs to be fully involved and consulted on how the problem is dealt with.
- The victim needs to feel sure that he/she will be protected from further related incidents.
- A record of the incident is kept on the student file and incidents are logged in the SIMS Behaviour Management system and where appropriate via the LA Bullying Incident Pro-forma.
- Information leaflets to support young people are made available.
- Each case is individual, must be taken seriously and should be investigated in a sensitive way.
- If the bullying is online, save evidence by taking screen shots and bring it to the school's attention
- The victim should use the report abuse button and block the perpetrator if the bullying is online. Most social networks have reporting mechanisms.
- There is support available through the Care, Support and Guidance section of the school's website.
- Mediation may be a strategy used if appropriate to resolve issues. This will be supervised and handled carefully

Disciplinary action

- All students who are found to be engaging in bullying will be dealt with through the behaviour policy.
- All parents/carers will be informed if their child is punished for bullying.
- Persistent or particularly vindictive bullying will be dealt with at a high level.

Reporting of Incidents

Victim

The person who feels that they have been bullied must always report the incident to the person with whom they feel most comfortable. They must be prepared to explain the circumstances and effects of the alleged bullying incident. They should feel supported and satisfied with any actions taken.

Friend

If a friend of a victim feels that bullying has occurred they must talk to the victim and encourage them to report the incident. If the victim does not wish to do so, the friend should offer to report it for them.

Peer Mentors/Student Leaders

The students are to be made aware that if they are concerned about bullying and do not wish to speak to a teacher they can report it to a Peer Mentor or a member of the Student Leadership Group. If the peer mentor is concerned about anything reported they must talk to the appropriate Form Tutor or Progress Leader - however minor it might appear.

Parents/Carers

If a parent/carer feels that a bullying incident has occurred in school, they should report it as soon as possible to the appropriate Progress Leader. Parents need to know that the school does not tolerate bullying and are aware of the procedures to follow if they believe that their child is being bullied.

Culcheth High School will provide effective staff training as part of the on-going whole school approach to professional development. Culcheth High School will invest in specialised skills, when needed, to help staff understand the needs of their pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or disability (SEND) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and Gender Questioning (LGBTQ+) pupils. (Please see the school's Equality Act Statement.)

Roles and responsibilities

Classroom teacher or other member of school staff

If, through their day to day dealings with students, any member of the school staff sees or is made aware of any incident which could be seen as bullying, it is their responsibility to challenge the behaviour and to report it to the appropriate Progress Leader.

Progress Leader

The appropriate Progress Leader must fully investigate any incident of alleged bullying. They may choose to delegate the interviews to other members of staff but they must be fully involved in assessing the situation and deciding what action to take. They must ensure that the victim is fully supported and is aware of what action will be taken. Investigation must begin within 24 hours and the victim and reporting member of staff must be aware of this. Home contact must be made with the victim's parents within 24 hours to inform them of concerns and likely actions. However all parties must be aware that investigations can be lengthy and we will aim to keep all parties fully informed throughout the process.

Head Teacher/ Senior Leadership Team

The relevant Senior Leader is always available to give advice and support the work of the Progress Leaders. In very serious cases of bullying, or when bullying is reported over a period of time, the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher may be involved if action is taken – especially where this requires suspension from school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

If cases of bullying involving an adult are disclosed they must be reported immediately to the DSL or the Head teacher for further advice and support. Cases of sexual harassment, peer on peer abuse in relation to the sharing of images must also be reported immediately to the DSL or Headteacher for further advice and support.

Monitoring

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the school's approach to dealing with bullying, it is important that the process is monitored. This will be done as a whole school through regular student voice activities and pastoral documents. Individual components of the policy also need to be evaluated, with the effectiveness of action taken to stop the bullying regularly monitored and fed back to those involved. All incidents are recorded using appropriate pro-formas and via the SIMs Behaviour Management system. CPOMS may also be used if appropriate.

Incidents will be reviewed by:

- PLs, through termly 360 Tracker reviews.
- SLT, through termly scrutiny of bullying records

Communications

This policy will be communicated:

- Internally to staff throughout the school in the policies handbook,
- Internally to students (principles and précis of relevant areas)
- Externally through the school's website and newsletters for all members of the school community including parents and carers;
- Via consultation surveys and polls or through representative bodies to all members of the school community

Should a breach of policy occur, we contact relevant individuals immediately and keep in touch during the investigations until a resolution is reached, with meetings arranged as appropriate to try to resolve the issue(s).

Review

The policy will be reviewed every three years via the Curriculum and Standards Committee which will report back to the Governing Body with any recommendations for changes.

This policy is also used in conjunction with the following:

School's Behaviour Policy
Equality Act Statement
E Safety Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Anti-Bullying Flow Chart

