



Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School
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POLICY STATEMENT:

Anti-bullying

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 3

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Article 19

Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents and or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 34

Governments must protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation

Date policy written	Dec 2007
Reviewed Consultation and Ratified	June/July 2016 June 2019 October 2023
Review date	October 2026



AIMS

Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School aims to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying, and to promote an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable, so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in.

This will happen through:

- Raising awareness of, and defining bullying as well as gaining an understanding as to why some children bully.
- Positive action to prevent bullying within the scheme of work for PSHE and citizenship and opportunities within other curriculum areas.
- Development of a consistent response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- Provision of support for all members of the school community who may be involved in a bullying situation.
- Developing and supporting home, school and community partnerships.
- Information given to all staff defining bullying and identifying vulnerable groups. (copy attached)

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Incidents of bullying will be recorded using Incident Recording Information System (IRIS).
2. Pupils identified as being either a perpetrator or victim of bullying to receive individual behaviour management support from pupil's own classroom staff, with guidance from the lead for PSHE and Personal Development and Behaviour as appropriate to the needs and level of understanding of the individual pupil.
4. Parents will be informed if their child is involved in incidents of bullying with advice and support offered.
5. Incidents of bullying to be monitored by the link Governor for Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare.
6. Incidents of persistent bullying to be identified and brought to the attention of Head and Named Governor to be monitored.
7. It is acknowledged that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under Safeguarding procedures.

Anti-bullying Policy: Guidance for Staff.

Definition of bullying:

Research has shown that a fixed definition of bullying behaviour may be too rigid, but exploring the concept within school and developing a shared understanding of bullying is essential.

The Department for Education and Skills 'Don't suffer in Silence' pack states that there are many different definitions of bullying, but most consider it to be:

- Deliberately hurtful (including aggression)
- Repeated often over a period of time
- Difficult for victims to defend themselves from

Bullying can take many forms, but three main types are:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, text messages and e-mails – “cyber bullying”.

Vulnerable Groups:

There are specific groups of individuals who are more vulnerable to experiencing bullying:

- Looked After Children
- Traveller Children
- Children vulnerable to Racism
- Children vulnerable to Homophobia
- Children with disability – The key duties of schools are: Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably; and to make reasonable adjustments to avoid putting disabled people at a substantial disadvantage.
- Children with SEN – Setting suitable learning challenges, responding to pupils' diverse learning needs, overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of children.
- Children with SEN are 2 or 3 times more at risk of being bullied.
- They are also more at risk of taking part in bullying others.
- Particular characteristics may make them an obvious 'target'
- In some mainstream settings children may be less well integrated socially and lack the protection against bullying which friendship gives.

We hope that our actions and ethos prevent bullying at Ashgate School but it is important to remember that our pupils are members of one or more of these vulnerable groups. As such they may be involved in bullying elsewhere in their lives and school staff should remain alert to this and if necessary offer support to the pupil and their family.

