



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (INCLUDING CYBERBULLYING)

This policy was written with regard to the DfE guidance 'Preventing and tackling bullying' July 2017, The Education Act 2011, The Equality Act 2010, Safe to Learn 2007 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

DEFINITION

Bullying can be defined as "Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally".

Bullying can be:

- Physical:- hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal:- name calling, insulting, offensive remarks, threats
- Indirect:- spreading rumours, exclusion, ostracising
- Cyberbullying:- using technology – mobile phone, social networks, email, etc. – deliberately to hurt or humiliate another.

Bullying may be motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, family circumstances. It may be motivated by actual differences between children or perceived differences. It may be directed at an individual or affect a wider group. It is difficult for victims to defend themselves from bullying. We understand that bullying can happen at school and outside of school.

Some features of cyberbullying differ from other forms of bullying. The key differences are:

- impact: the scale and scope of cyberbullying can be greater than other forms of bullying
- targets and perpetrators: the people involved may have a different profile to traditional bullies and their targets
- location: the 24/7 and anywhere nature of cyberbullying
- anonymity: the person being bullied will not always know who is bullying them
- motivation: some pupils may not be aware that what they are doing is bullying
- evidence: unlike other forms of bullying, the target of the bullying may have evidence of its occurrence
- it is possible that a member of staff may be a victim and these responses apply to them too

AIMS

At Thomas's Academy our aim is that staff, children and parents work together to create a happy, caring learning environment in line with our school rule 'Be Kind' and our School Values. Our aim is to make the schools ones in which bullying – of any kind – has no place and to have a whole school approach to ensuring safety, security, openness and confidence. We aim for values of respect for staff and other pupils, an understanding of the value of education, and a clear understanding of how our actions affect others to permeate the whole school environment and be reinforced by staff and older pupils who set a good example to the rest.

The school recognises that technology plays an important and positive role in children's lives, both educationally and socially. It is committed to helping all members of the school community to understand both the benefits and the risks, and to equip children with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly.

OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness of the school's expectations in terms of behaviour and to adhere to our Code of Conduct and School Values
- To communicate effectively to all members of the school community the school's stance on bullying of any kind
- To engage members of the school community in reaching a shared understanding of what bullying and cyberbullying is
- To communicate effectively to all members of the school community the school's policy and procedures
- To promote an open atmosphere in which victims and witnesses know that it is right "to tell" and feel safe to do so
- To work with staff so that they can identify different sorts of bullying and know how to deal with cases sensitively, supportively and effectively
- To have a recognised procedure of sanctions for bullying that is clear and consistent
- To take appropriate action in cases of bullying and keep a detailed record
- To work with children in a range of ways to equip them with social and emotional skills in order to reduce bullying and to be able to counter and deal with bullying

STRATEGIES

Thomas's Academy have their own school-specific range of strategies for involving children, staff and parents in anti-bullying measures. This will include prevention, communication, knowledge of sanctions and celebration of success, and will involve the following strategies:

- Highlighting, our Deputy Head (Inclusion) as Anti-bullying Co-ordinator
- Involving parents to ensure that they are clear that the school does not tolerate bullying and are aware of the procedures to follow if they believe that their child is being bullied
- Involving pupils so they understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they can play to prevent bullying, including when they find themselves as bystanders
- Regularly evaluating and updating approaches to take account of developments in technology, for instance updating 'Acceptable use' policies for computers
- Publicising rules and implementing disciplinary sanctions. The consequences of bullying should reflect the seriousness of the incident. We will also deal with bullying that occurs outside of school that has been brought to our attention
- Openly discussing differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, gender or sexuality. Also children with different family situations
- Using specific organisations or resources for help with particular problems
- Providing effective staff training for all staff, including non-teaching staff, to enable them recognise types of bullying, including homophobic, biphobic, transphobic bullying and cyberbullying and how recognise signs of possible victims and how to respond appropriately
- Making it easy for pupils to report bullying so that they are assured that they will be listened to and incidents acted on.
- Providing information on external reporting routes e.g. mobile phone company, internet service provider, Childline
- Making positive use of technology across the curriculum
- Supporting pupils in safe and responsible use of the internet including understanding the importance of password security and the need to log out of accounts

Staff

In dealing with reported cases of bullying we undertake to:

- never ignore suspected bullying
- not make premature assumptions
- listen carefully to all accounts
- protect and support a child who has been bullied
- help the child who has bullied to recognise the effect of their behaviour and to take responsibility for it. Apply appropriate sanctions and support the child in changing their behaviour
- recognise that the one who bullies is likely to have been the victim of bullying and/or has issues that need to be explored and resolved
- inform and involve parents
- involve outside agencies where necessary

- keep detailed records of occurrences with information from all involved
- follow up repeatedly, checking that bullying has not resumed

Pupils

- The Anti-bullying Policy is re-introduced to all pupils at the beginning of each academic year.
- Through the curriculum, an anti-bullying ethos is developed and self-esteem and peer power enhanced. Respect for others, tolerance and kindness are promoted at every opportunity.
- The pupils will be involved in developing and communicating a code of advice on protecting themselves from getting caught up in cyberbullying and on reporting cases they experience.

Children will learn through a combination of direct discussion about bullying and indirect strategies in teaching and other aspects of the school. These include:

- Code of Conduct
- School Values
- Assemblies
- PSHE and Citizenship lessons
- Circle Time
- Special awareness-raising days or events
- Signing an Acceptable Use Policy (from Year 3) before they use the internet in school

Parents

- Information about the School's policy and procedures will be published online.
- Parents are expected to follow the School's Code of Conduct and support the school's stance on bullying
- We encourage parents to tell the school of concerns, including those relating to incidents out of school, and we publicise the name of the Deputy Head (Inclusion) as Anti-bullying Co-ordinator
- Any concerns raised by parents will be sympathetically heard and investigated.
- Parents of both victims and bullies will be supported.
- We provide parents with information on e.g. internet safety via literature, talks etc

With cases of cyberbullying we offer the following guidance:

- Advise the person not to retaliate or reply. Instead, keep the evidence and take it to their parent or a member of staff
- Preserve evidence and a record of abuse; save phone messages, record or save-and-print instant messenger conversations, print or produce a screen-grab of social network pages, print, save and forward to staff whole email messages
- If images are involved, determine whether they might be illegal or raise child protection concerns. If so, contact: the local police or the London Safeguarding Children Board Officer

- Advise the person to consider what information they have in the public domain
- Unless the victim sees it as a punishment, it may be advisable to change their information e.g. mobile phone number
- Remove any hurtful or embarrassing content from the web, either by contacting the person who posted it (if known) or by contacting the host provider and make a report to get the content taken down.
- In some cases, the person being bullied may be able to block the person bullying from their sites and services. Appendix 2 contains information on what service providers can do and how to contact them
- Any allegations against staff should be handled as other allegations following guidance in *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education*.
- Sanctions for any breaches of AUPs or internet/mobile phone agreements will be applied
- School staff may request a pupil to reveal a message or other phone content and may confiscate a phone
- Head teachers have the power 'to such extent as is reasonable' to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off-site or not under the control or charge of a member of staff. (Education and Inspections Act 2006)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- The school will undertake an audit of 'hot spots' in the school, the grounds and in off-site facilities to identify areas and times where children feel vulnerable or at risk.
- The school will undertake regular audits of parents' and pupils' views of the effectiveness of the Anti-bullying Policy and procedures.
- The school will regularly evaluate and update their approach to take account of developments in technology, for instance updating "acceptable use" policies for computers
- All reported cases of bullying will be recorded, including Cyberbullying, and the Anti-bullying Co-ordinator will a) keep records confidential and secure b) allow access to the records only to the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors.
- The Anti-bullying Co-ordinator will report annually to the Senior Leadership Team on the number and type of cases recorded and the trend of cases over the previous three years.
- The Anti-bullying Co-ordinator and Head will report to the Governors annually, using monitoring information and feedback from staff, pupils and parents, on any required changes to this policy or procedures or to any other related policy.
- The Anti-bullying Policy will be discussed, monitored and reviewed on a regular basis

See also: Behaviour Policy, Code of Conduct, E-Safety Policy, ICT Acceptable use Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, PSHE Policy, Safeguarding Children Policy, Whistle Blowing Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually		
Reviewed : September 2019	By:	Miles Chester & The Personnel, Policies and Safeguarding Committee
Reviewed : October 2020	By:	Suzanne Kelly
Date of next review: October 2021	By	Suzanne Kelly

APPENDIX I: Some Useful Agencies/Resources

Websites and resources that offer support guidance and strategies for children, young people, schools and parents/carers to prevent all forms of bullying:

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA): Founded in 2002 by NSPCC and National Children's Bureau, the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) brings together over 100 organisations into one network to develop and share good practice across the whole range of bullying issues.

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

BeatBullying

A very successful charity that supports borough-based, youth-lead, anti-bullying campaigns. It works with young people and professionals and organises seminars, training courses and conferences. It has an accessible website for young people and schools. It also provides professionals with comprehensive anti-bullying toolkits.

www.beatbullying.org

Chatdanger

This gives advice for young people and parents on using Internet Chat rooms safely.

www.chatdanger.com

CEOP: (Child Exploitation Online Protection)

A newly formed government agency that is dedicated to promoting online safety for children who may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation in chat rooms. It works with a number of charities and police across the UK and has a website for secondary age pupils called 'thinkuknow'.

www.ceop.gov.uk

ChildLine

This provides a 24 hour helpline for children and young people being bullied in the UK. Children and young people can call 0800 1111 to talk about any problem. It is a major charity that is now housed with NSPCC. It provides training in peer support for pupils and schools and has a range of publications and downloadable resources for children, parents and teachers.

www.childline.org.uk

Kidscape

Kidscape is committed to keeping children safe from abuse. It is the first charity in the UK established specifically to prevent bullying and child sexual abuse it provides information, good resources and training for children and young people under the age of 16, their parents/carers. It offers a range of courses for professionals. It also provides courses in assertiveness training, ZAP, for children and young people and develops their confidence and skills to resist bullying and forms of abuse.

www.kidscape.org.uk

NSPCC

The NSPCC works tirelessly and promotes public campaigns to stop cruelty to children. There is advice on a number of issues related to bullying, child protection, and abuse. Kids Zone which contains details for their child protection helpline for young people who have problems at home or are being bullied.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Parentline Plus

This is a charity dedicated to support parents on all issues related to parenting and has a very helpful section on bullying.

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

Stopcyberbullying

<http://stopcyberbullying.org/parents/>

Throwing Stones

This is a video and resource pack, using drama, made by Leicestershire Police and Local Authority on racist bullying aimed at 9-13 year olds. More information can be found on the local authority website which has a number of really useful information sheets for pupils and ideas for teachers and parents on what bullying is and how to stop it.

www.beyondbullying.com

Young Minds

Young Minds aims to promote the mental health of children and young people through a parent's information service, training and consultancy, advocacy and publications. Its site provides basic information on a range of subjects including bullying.

www.youngminds.org.uk

BOOKS

Most of the websites listed above have books and resources that schools can order to extend their understanding of bullying and how to prevent it.

Journeys

Children and young people talking about bullying. This booklet, the first publication from the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England, tells the real stories of ten children and young people who have experience bullying. It also includes their tips for dealing with bullying and an endnote by Al Aynsley-Green, the Children's Commissioner for England.

Primary

"A Volcano in my Tummy" written by Elaine Whitehouse and Warwick Pudney. The book begins with a little insight into anger itself as well as the "rules" of anger. Anger is okay. It's okay to feel anger, to talk about anger, to express anger in an appropriate way. It's not okay to hurt yourself and other people, animals or things when you are angry. This is an excellent practical resource with imaginative ideas for lessons to help children to manage and deal with the emotion of anger.

www.amazon.co.uk

Secondary

Adolescent Volcanoes

This is another marvellous book that has a section for adolescents and one for adults giving useful activities and exercises that can be adapted to help young people to deal with anger, set boundaries and communicate appropriately.

APPENDIX 2: When and how to contact the service provider

Mobile Phones

All UK mobile operators have nuisance call centres set up and/or procedures in place to deal with such instances. The responses may vary, but possibilities for the operator include changing the mobile number of the person being bullied so that the bully will not be able to continue to contact them without finding out their new number. It is not always possible for operators to bar particular numbers from contacting the phone of the person being bullied, although some phone handsets themselves do have this capability. Action can be taken against the bully's phone account (e.g. blocking their account), only with police involvement.

Social networking sites (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat)

It is normally possible to block/ignore particular users on social networking sites, which should mean the user can stop receiving unwanted comments. Users can do this from within the site.

Many social network providers also enable users to pre-moderate any comments left on their profile before they are visible by others. This can help a user prevent unwanted or hurtful comments appearing on their profile for all to see. The user can also set their profile to 'Private,' so that only those authorised by the user are able to access and see their profile.

It is good practice for social network providers to make reporting incidents of cyberbullying easy, and thus have clear, accessible and prominent reporting features. Many of these reporting features will be within the profiles themselves, so they are 'handy' for the user. If social networking sites do receive reports about cyberbullying, they will investigate and can remove content that is illegal or breaks their terms and conditions in other ways. They may issue conduct warnings and they can delete the accounts of those that have broken these rules. It is also good practice for social network providers to make clear to the users what the terms and conditions are for using the service, outlining what is inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour, as well as providing prominent safety information so that users know how to use the service safely and responsibly.

Instant Messenger (IM)

It is possible to block users, or change Instant Messenger IDs so the bully is not able to contact their target any more. Most providers will have information on their website about how to do this. In addition, the Instant Messenger provider can investigate and shut down any accounts that have been misused and clearly break their terms of service. The best evidence for the service provider is archived or recorded conversations and most IM providers allow the user to record all messages. It is also good practice for Instant Messenger providers to have visible and easy-to-access reporting features on their service.

Email providers (e.g. Hotmail and Gmail)

It is possible to block particular senders and if the bullying persists and alternative is for the person being bullied to change their email addresses. The email provider will have information on their website and how to create a new account.

Video-hosting sites

It is possible to get content taken down from video-hosting sites, though the content will need to be illegal or have broken the terms of service of the site in other ways. On YouTube, for example, it is possible to report content to the site provider as inappropriate.

Chat rooms, individual website owners/forums, message board hosts

Most chatrooms should offer the user the option of blocking or ignoring particular users. Some services may be moderated, and then moderators will warn users posting abusive comments or take down content that breaks their terms of use.