



**Bempton Primary School**

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

Date reviewed	June 2023
Date for next review	June 2025

Rationale:

It is the aim of everyone at Bempton Primary School that we provide a safe, kind and respectful learning environment that allows all children to achieve best outcomes.

At Bempton School all forms of bullying, including those motivated by prejudice, must not be tolerated. No-one should suffer the pain and indignity that bullying can cause.

The school works hard to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and simply "falling out".

What is bullying?

The Gov.uk documents describe bullying as:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

Child on Child Abuse

Children can abuse other children. This was formerly known as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

Cyberbullying/ online bullying

The use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.

- excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups;
- sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages;
- creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos;
- 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games;
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll;
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child;
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that occupies a unique space within the

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broader definition due to its scope, both in that it can take place at any time of day or night and the bigger potential audience size, and due to the fact it can (and typically does) take place away from the school site and beyond the parameters of the school day. Furthermore, the artefacts of cyberbullying, (including imagery involving pupils in the taking of nude or semi-nude imagery, or abusive comments), have the potential to travel to any other point in the world and there are few or no options to limit or retract once information has been shared in this way.

### The Law

Some forms of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the police. These include:

- violence or assault
- theft
- repeated harassment or intimidation, for example name calling, threats and abusive phone calls, emails or text messages
- hate crimes

### What we know about those who are bullied?

- Children may be reluctant to report bullying for fear of repeat harm, and because of a concern that 'nothing can be done'. It is therefore our aim to ensure children understand what bullying is and that we can support children to prevent harm, that bullying is not tolerated.
- Children may not report bullying because they may feel it is something within them which is at fault. Children therefore need to receive a clear message from Bempton Primary that nobody ever deserves to be bullied.
- It is important to us that we demonstrate that bullying is a whole school issue, and that bullying of any member of the school community will be taken seriously and dealt with effectively.
- Children with learning disabilities or communication difficulties may not understand that they are being bullied, or that they are bullying, or may have difficulty explaining that they are being bullied. Staff at Bempton School look out for signs of bullying and act if they suspect a child is being bullied, or is involved in bullying.

### Possible indicators that a child is being bullied:

- Deteriorating attendance
- Poor punctuality
- Lack of progress
- Diminishing achievement can indicate that the pupil is vulnerable in some way and susceptible to, or suffering already from, bullying.
- Disengagement/withdrawing from school

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- Emotional and behavioural changes
- Physical problems such as headaches and stomach pains
- Signs of depression

#### Steps taken to prevent bullying at Bempton Primary School

- Prevention is better than cure so at Bempton School we will be vigilant for signs of bullying and always take reports of incidents seriously. We will use the curriculum whenever possible to reinforce the ethos of the school and help pupils to develop strategies to combat bullying-type behaviour.
- Curriculum opportunities are used to address well-being, kindness and bullying
- School have NSPCC assemblies and workshops to support children, there is an NSPCC notice board with information for support
- We promote kindness and respect in school and ensure the children have trusted adults they can speak with
- School have an Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA) trained member of staff who does drop-ins, group and one to one sessions
- Staff are aware of indicators for bullying
- All staff are aware of the importance of modelling positive relationships and treating everyone in school with respect
- We work in partnership with parents, with Children's Services and community partners to promote safe communities.

#### What parents should do if they think their child is being bullied?

- Contact school as soon as possible if they feel concerned that their child is being bullied, or does not feel safe.
- Know that the school will take any complaint about bullying seriously, and investigate as necessary.
- Gather as many facts and information as possible about specific incidents (if possible dates and times), and named children.
- Assure your child that they have done the right thing in telling and school will support them.
- Expect to receive follow-up information as to what action has been taken, and how your child will be supported.



## Bempton Primary School

### Procedures

- The class teacher/Head Teacher will record, all reports of alleged bullying.
- School will alert the relevant members of staff to ensure the alleged 'victim' does not come to further harm while the investigation is taking place and continue to monitor.
- School will investigate fully – speaking to adults, children involved and bystanders. We will discuss with the children the issues appropriate to the incident and to their age and level of understanding. The adult will try to remain neutral and deliberately avoid direct, closed questioning which may be interpreted as accusatory or interrogational in style. Each pupil must be given an opportunity to talk and the discussion should remain focused on finding a solution to the problem and stopping the bullying recurring.
- Pupils may be asked to produce confidential written statements or a verbal statement that an adult will record, when appropriate. These statements will be recorded on CPOMs.
- If investigations result in allegations being substantiated, the parents will be contacted, describing the bullying incident. Parents will be encouraged to come into school at this point to discuss the issue, consequences and next steps in a meeting.
- School will communicate with and work alongside all parents of children involved to try to resolve the problem.
- Schools should apply sanctions and support to pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong. Sanctions measures must be applied fairly, consistently, and reasonably taking account of any special educational needs or disabilities that the pupils may have and taking into account the needs of vulnerable pupils.
- It is important for schools to consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves. It is crucial for maintaining a culture of safeguarding in a school that bullying behaviour and all perpetration of child on child abuse is seen as an indication of the need for education and support, which in itself is a safeguarding issue because it is not conducive to that child achieving the best outcomes that they can, and may be indicative of a child protection concern.