Longmeadow Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Policy Sign off

Approved by:	Mr James Berry Headteacher	**Date: March 2026**
Last reviewed on:	March 2026	
Next review due by:	March 2027	

The adults at Longmeadow Primary School try to provide good, positive role models in their approach to all issues relating to anti-bullying and equality of opportunity. As a community, we are committed to providing a safe, positive, valuing and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents/ carers.

As part of Anti-Bullying work, all classes within the school discuss and agree definitions of bullying. It was agreed that bullying is:

'Deliberately and on more than one occasion, making someone's life

at school and outside, a misery by hurting them in one or more ways.'

As a school we view bullying behaviour as:

- Intentionally hurtful- It is deliberate, unjustifiable and unprovoked behaviour. It includes actions that cause physical, emotional or mental hurt to the victim and actions that violate another person's freedom and rights.
- A repeated experience- It is persistent or repeated anti-social behaviour.
- An inequality of power- The person being bullied finds it difficult to reject or deal with the offending behaviour, or those involved in the bullying behaviour have power over the victim.

Examples of bullying:

- Verbal bullying
- Online bullying
- Physical bullying
- Indirect bullying, eg, spreading rumours or excluding individuals
- Psychological bullying, eg, intimidation
- Racist taunts or gestures (All incidents are reported to county)
- Homophobic: This includes the use of the word 'gay' when used as a term of abuse

The school community agreed that bullying behaviour is unacceptable and we take it very seriously.

Aims

In establishing an Anti-Bullying Policy we aim to:

- Establish school rules within classrooms which demonstrate positive caring behaviour
- Have assemblies where the importance of being respectful and valuing others is discussed by children and adults
- Encourage children to resolve their issues
- To respond promptly to any incidents of bullying which are reported
- To reduce and continue to seek to eradicate incidents of bullying in school

- To further strengthen home/school links through a shared approach to responding to and preventing bullying
- To ensure that all pupils, staff, parents and Governors are aware of procedures and fulfil their responsibilities
- Provide pupils with strategies and teach them skills that may be helpful when responding to and challenging bullying behaviour
- Support the victim by establishing swift and easy methods for reporting incidents
- Ensure that all incidents of harassment and bullying are recorded and monitored
- All racist incidents are recorded and a confidential record is kept in the Headteacher's office.

Systems and Procedures

Opportunities for teaching children about the effects of bullying and strategies for dealing with children using bullying behaviour are a planned part of the Curriculum. Teaching predominately takes place during PSHCE lessons, Assemblies, and Circle Times. We have a focus on anti-bullying each term and participate in National Anti-Bullying Week in November.

Children are taught from Nursery to Year 6 to say, "Stop! I don't like that," as a first response to someone that does or says something they do not like. If the behaviour continues, or they are unable to speak up, children are taught to actively seek someone to help them. Children are encouraged to choose a 'safe' adult they can seek support from at playtime or lunchtime if they are experiencing difficulties within their friendships. We encourage a culture where it is 'ok to tell'. In fact, 'telling' or getting adult help is often the best way of standing up for oneself.

We do not support or condone 'hitting back'. Physical or verbal aggression in school is unacceptable in all circumstances and can only serve to worsen matters.

At Longmeadow Primary School, we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils on e-Safety Issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies, in and beyond the context of the classroom.

When bullying behaviour has been identified, the following procedures are followed:

Discussion:

- Staff respond quickly to establish the facts and speak to all concerned, if possible the same day
- Possible causes identified
- Consequences of actions and feelings discussed
- Suggestions for improving the situation will be made

Possible consequences and sanctions:

Each situation is likely to be different, however, there will always be consequences, depending on the severity of the action

- All acts of bullying will be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy
- All acts of bullying will be recorded on CPOMS and categorised appropriately
- Acts of bullying will require an educational and a protective consequence for the perpetrator as in our behaviour policy.

- If the behaviour occurs on the way to or from school, parents may be asked to accompany the offending child/children to and from school.

Role of Parents/Carers and the Wider Community

We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to help all pupils to achieve their potential. Parents and carers have an important role to play in actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

If parents or carers have concerns over bullying behaviour, they should report the concerns initially with the class teacher or the Headteacher as soon as possible. Parents or carers should take up any concerns they have with the school and not the parents or carers of other pupils. The best place to resolve conflicts between children is in the school where incidents can be explored fully by members of staff.

Parents and carers are expected to exercise reasonable confidentiality around incidents/conflicts in which they are involved. In particular, parents/ carers are requested not to voice stories about incidents using any vehicle eg social media, as partial information can be inaccurate and affect the reputations of individual children and the school.

When an incident of bullying behaviour has been investigated, the parents of all parties will be informed and asked for their support. Appointments for the parents of the pupil exhibiting bullying behaviour, will be made with the Headteacher/Deputy/Class teacher to discuss strategies for immediate behaviour modification.

If any parents feel that a situation has not been resolved, they will be directed to request from the office a copy of the school's complaints procedure which is also available to download from the school website.

Suspension and Exclusion

In the most serious of cases, procedures for suspension or permanent exclusion will be considered and, if necessary, implemented.

Monitoring

Our Anti-Bullying policy is identified as an area requiring careful and ongoing monitoring throughout the curriculum and across all aspects of school life. All members of our school community have a right to feel safe and to be listened to.

Class Circle Times regularly discuss the subject of bullying. The School Council/Communication Teams also discuss a range of issues related to making playtimes happy for all pupils. They discuss different aspects of the school behaviour policy regularly, and have an input into the annual 'Anti-Bullying Week' campaign in November.

What about fall outs that are not bullying?

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. It is bullying if it is repeated on purpose.

Children sometimes fall out and say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise, although unkind, it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship

breakdowns or a childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop skills to repair relationships.

The aim of the school anti-bullying policy is to try to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. We are committed to ensuring that the school community works together to create a happy, safe, caring and stimulating environment. We create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in. All members of the school community have the responsibility to recognise bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy.

Links to other policies:

Behaviour Policy
SEND and Inclusion Policy
Child Protection Policy
ICT Acceptable Use Policy