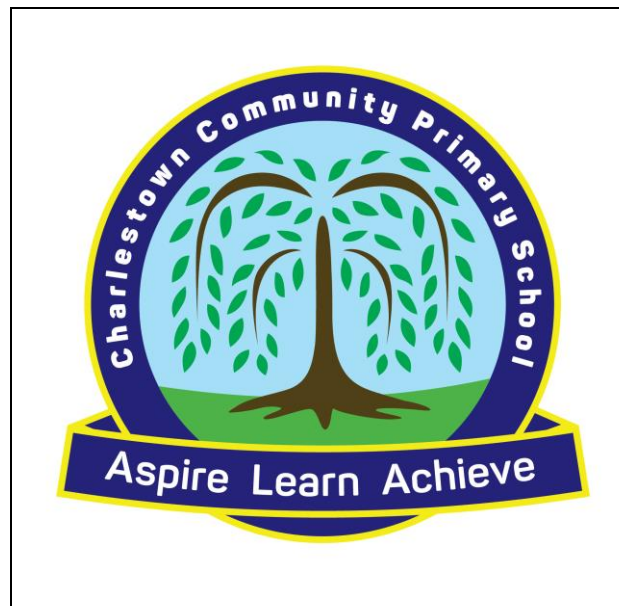


# **Charlestown Community Primary School**



## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

**Reviewed April 2016**

# Charlestown Community Primary School

## Anti-bullying Policy

### Statement of Intent:

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

We are a **TELLING** school.

This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

### What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
  - Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
  - Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
  - Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
  - Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
  - Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
  - Cyber All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse
  - Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
  - Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

### Bullying is not:

It is important to understand that bullying is not odd occasion falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional 'joke' is played on someone. Children do sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of a child's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships. **It is bullying if it is done repeatedly and on purpose.** Whenever the opportunity arises, it must be made profoundly clear that we will not tolerate bullying at Charlestown Community Primary School.

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so that they can grow and learning in a relaxed and safe environment.

### **Why do we tackle Bullying?**

We tackle bullying because we are an effective, caring school and we believe that:

- Bullying makes people unhappy and leads to low self-esteem
- Pupils who are being bullied are unlikely to concentrate fully on their schoolwork.
- Some pupils avoid being bullied by not attending school.
- Pupils who observe unchallenged bullying behaviour may copy this.

We wish to build the self-esteem of all pupils, especially those who have bullied and victims.

### **Objectives of this Policy :**

All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.

All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Bullying will not be tolerated.

### **Signs and Symptoms:**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied.

Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work

- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

#### **Procedures:**

Dealing with incidents of bullying is the responsibility of every member of staff.

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff on a Bullying Incident Record.
3. Racist bullying should also be recorded on a Racist Incident Log.
4. Parents must be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

#### **Outcomes:**

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, lunchtime, fixed-term or even permanent exclusion will be considered
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

#### **Prevention:**

We will use KIDSCAPE methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role-plays)
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

### **Role of Parents:**

Parents have an important part to play in our Anti-bullying Policy.

We ask parents to:

- Look out for unusual behaviour in their child – for example, not wanting to attend school, feeling ill regularly or not completing their work to the usual standard.
- Always take an active role in your child’s education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent time with, etc.
- Inform the school if you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- Always inform the school and never approach another child in the playground or on their way home.
- Reinforce the school policy on bullying and ensure your child is not afraid to ask for help. Do not advise your child to fight back or to repeat bullies’ behaviour. This will only make the situation worse.
- Tell your child it is not their fault they are being bullied.
- If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform the school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately and in partnership with you.

### **Monitoring and Review:**

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team through reviews of behaviour/ incident logs, staff and pupil discussions.

The policy will be reviewed annually and in consultation with Governors, Pupils, Parents and Staff.

Sections of this policy are attributed to Kidscape 2005 HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Bullying Online [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk) Visit the Kidscape website

[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) for further support, links and advice.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Review Date:

Signed:

Chair of Governors.