



Anti-Bullying Policy

Date approved:	Autumn 2025
Approved by:	Local Governing Bodies
Next review date:	Autumn 2026

Introduction

At Hope Community School, we aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly environment for all our pupils to allow them to learn effectively, improve their life chances and help them maximise their potential.

We would expect pupils to feel safe in school, including an understanding of the issues relating to safety, such as bullying. We also want them to feel confident to seek support from school should they feel unsafe.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, and outside agencies and appointing an Anti-bullying coordinator who will have general responsibility for handling the implementation of this policy. The anti-bullying coordinator is the Principal. All staff, teaching and non-teaching are responsible to support, uphold and implement this policy.

Staff are to share this policy with

- parents/carers and relevant local agencies
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice

The Principal and teaching staff are to

- Manage bullying incidents
- Managing the reporting and recording of bullying incidents
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Coordinating strategies for preventing bullying behaviour

The Chair of the Local Governing Body has responsibility for Anti-bullying.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying can be defined as “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

- Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, sending offensive or degrading photos or videos (including sexting or up skirting).
- Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of child on child abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional development.

How does bullying differ from teasing/falling out between friends or other types of aggressive behaviour?

- There is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate.
- There is a power imbalance that makes it hard for the victim to defend themselves.

- It is usually persistent.

Occasionally an incident may be deemed to be bullying even if the behaviour has not been repeated or persistent – if it fulfils all other descriptions of bullying. This possibility should be considered, particularly in cases of sexual, sexist, racist or homophobic bullying and when children with disabilities are involved. If the victim might be in danger, then intervention is urgently required.

What does bullying look like? Bullying can include:

- name calling
- taunting
- mocking
- making offensive comments
- discriminatory comments (such as those linked to race, gender, sexuality, age, ethnicity, faith, disability, age)
- physical assault
- taking or damaging belongings
- cyber bullying - inappropriate text messaging and e mailing; sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet, sexting or up skirting
- producing offensive graffiti
- gossiping and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- excluding people from groups.

Although bullying can occur between individuals it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the 'bystanders' or 'accessories'.

Why are children and young people bullied? Specific

types of bullying include:

- bullying related to race, religion or culture
- bullying related to special educational needs or disabilities
- bullying related to appearance or physical or mental health
- bullying relating to sexual orientation
- bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances
- bullying linked to gender
- bullying linked to sexual harassment or violence There is no hierarchy of bullying – all forms should be taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Bullying can take place between:

- children, including siblings
- children and staff
- between staff
- individuals or groups
- certain groups of pupils are known to be particularly vulnerable to bullying by others: these may include pupils with special educational needs such as learning or physical disabilities; young carers, looked after children, those from ethnic and racial minority groups and those young people who may be perceived as lesbian, gay, bi- sexual, transgender or questioning their gender role, or children or adults who do or are perceived to contain lesbian, gay, bi-

sexual, or transgender family members.

Reporting and Responding to Bullying

Our school has clear and well publicised systems to report bullying for the whole school community (including staff, parents/carers, children) this includes those who are the victims of bullying or have witnessed bullying behaviour (bystanders)

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to a member of class staff and then the Principal. All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated involving all parties. The procedures will be as follows:

- Interview all parties as soon as possible.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision making, as appropriate.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentiality policies.
- Responses will be appropriate to the situation and will be solution focused and based on a restorative approach. Possible actions may include: circle of friends, individual work with victim, perpetrator and referral to outside agencies if appropriate
- Sanctions, as identified within the school behaviour policy, and support will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as the police, if a criminal offence has been committed, or other local services including early help or children’s social care, if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
- Face to face meetings will be arranged on a regular basis with all parties in order to ensure the situation has been resolved
- Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. If required, the DSL will collaborate with other schools. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with this policy and the school’s behaviour policy.
- The DSL will be informed of all bullying issues.
- When working with any children involved in a bullying incident, staff are required to adopt the ‘soothed, seen, safe’ approach, in line with the school’s behaviour policy.

Recording Bullying and Evaluating the Policy

Bullying incidents will be recorded on Arbor by the member of staff who deals with the incident and this will be notified to and held by the anti-bullying coordinator, the school principal.

The information we hold will be used to ensure individual incidents are followed up. It will also be used to identify trends and inform preventative work in school and development of the policy.

The Principal has introduced a comprehensive spreadsheet and will systematically record bullying incidents reported. From this, behavioral patterns will be identified, enabling staff to distinguish trends among both perpetrators and victims.

This information will be presented to the Trust Board in an anonymous format as part of the annual report.

The policy will be reviewed and updated annually. The policy review will be linked to the School Improvement Plan, working towards a more inclusive and harmonious ethos across the school community.

Cyberbullying / Online abuse

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person(s) who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - looking at use of the school systems;
 - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
 - Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
 - Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
 - Where possible, searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and the school searching and confiscation policy. (We will access the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' and Childnet cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the schools powers are used proportionately and lawfully)
 - Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:
 - advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
 - providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists;
 - helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

Supporting pupils

- Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:
- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous pastoral support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the designated safeguarding lead, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include: working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling, engaging with parents and carers.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this could include support through Early Help or Specialist Children's Services, or support through the Children and Young People's Mental

Health Service (CAMHS).

Pupils who have perpetrated bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Sanctioning, in line with school behaviour/discipline policy; this may include official warnings, internal exclusions, removal of privileges (including online access when encountering cyberbullying concerns), and fixed-term or permanent exclusions.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Specialist Children's Services, or the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

Supporting adults

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of adults, including staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead and a senior member of staff.
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
- Where the bullying takes place off the school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools' behaviour and discipline policy.
- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

Adults who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff.
- Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

Strategies for Preventing Bullying

Environment

Hope School ethos of love and respect for others underpins all we do. The school community will:

- Adopt the 'soothes, seen, safe' approach
- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all, by promoting Hope values.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (child on child abuse).

- Recognises the potential for children with SEN and disabilities, other vulnerabilities such as mental health, to be disproportionately impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as: children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related difference.
- Challenge practice and language (including ‘banter’) which does not uphold the school values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively create “safe spaces” for vulnerable children.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Create an open culture whereby pupils, staff and parents/carers can access support or report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to consider the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools’ attention, which involves or effects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully, and those who have been bullied

Education and Training

The school community will:

- Train all staff, including: teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school’s policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum including, Relationships Sex and Health education and other activities, such as; through displays, Collectives, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
- Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
- Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils’ social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem

Links with other policies

Behaviour Policy
Safeguarding Policy
Equality Objectives
RSHE Policy
Complaints Policy

Useful links and supporting organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The BIG Award: www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net
- The Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practiceschools

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities: https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/cyberbullying-and-send-module-final%281%29_0.pdf

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis • DfE 'Cyberbullying: advice for head teachers and school staff': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying
- DfE 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

Race, religion and nationality

- Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk
- Kick it Out: www.kickitout.org
- Report it: www.report-it.org.uk
- Stop Hate: www.stophateuk.org
- Tell Mama: www.tellmamauk.org
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srrc.org/educational

LGBT

- Barnardo's LGBT Hub: www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm
- Metro Charity: www.metrocentreonline.org
- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Proud Trust: www.theproudtrust.org
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk • Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW) www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk

- Disrespect No Body: www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobodycampaign-posters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: Preventing and responding to Sexual Bullying: www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-gender-related/preventing-and-responding-sexual

References - Documents and Related Policy/Guidance

Equality Act 2010

DfE publications - "Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies"; "Supporting children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools"; "Cyberbullying: advice for head teachers and school staff"; "Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying" November 2014.

"Keeping Children Safe in Education"

Preventing and tackling bullying 2017 DfE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2019