

New Horizons Seaside Primary

Anti-Bullying Policy

Last Review Date:	Sept 2025
Next Review Date:	Sept 2026
Reviewed By:	Mr Lee Murley (Headteacher / Chief Executive Officer)

Introduction

At New Horizons Seaside Primary, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so that they may learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a member of staff.

What Is Bullying? This definition has been agreed by pupils, staff and parents and is used as the descriptor for reported incidents.

Bullying is the use of intentional, **repeated and habitual** actions by one person or by a group of people, which have the effect of hurting another person or persons either physically or emotionally, resulting in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, biting or other forms of violence;
- Verbal - name-calling, unkind sarcasm, spreading rumours, hurtful teasing;
- Emotional – deliberately excluding someone from a group, tormenting (e.g. hiding or taking things), threatening, being unfriendly, graffiti, humiliating;
- Racist – racist taunts, name calling, gestures on the basis of skin colour or culture;
- Sexist – using gender to intentionally hurt, tease or insult;
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact, abusive comments including homophobic;
- Cyber – bullying that takes place using electronic devices such as phones.

Vulnerable groups such as those with learning disabilities, differing ethnic or sexual orientations, less privileged family backgrounds or gifted and talented children are particularly at risk and need to be supported (see also our **Equal Opportunities Policy**).

School Objectives

- Staff, governors, pupils and parents should be committed to the prevention of bullying and unacceptable behaviour.
- All staff, governors, pupils and parents should have an understanding of bullying behaviour and its consequences.
- Clear procedures for the reporting of bullying should be understood and followed.
- Clear guidelines for staff and children on how to deal with incidents of bullying should be understood and followed.

Procedure

For parents who wish to contact the school regarding issues of bullying there is a clear chain of command:

Class Teacher – Year Leader – Deputy Headteacher – Headteacher

This action plan has been reviewed by our Pupil Governors and has been amended and agreed by staff and parents/Carers.

How this looks for our children:

1. Children are encouraged in the first instance to tell the bully/bullies to stop and, if they will listen, to explain why.
2. If this doesn't stop the bully/bullies, tell your teacher that you think you are being bullied or tell an adult at home so they can tell the teacher. Take a friend with you when you tell the teacher if you are worried.
3. Explain exactly what has happened and talk with the teacher to see if it is bullying or one off bad behaviour. (see check list – Appendix 1). Teachers have the list and it should be on display.
4. Teacher to check both sides of the story.
5. Record incidences in a log saying if it is bad behaviour or bullying. This will help to keep track of repeated incidences.
6. Bad behaviour to be addressed according to the school policy. If the teacher agrees that it is bullying the following steps must be taken.
 - Parents should be informed of the event and how the school plans to deal with the situation and receive follow-up information.
 - The teacher should talk to the bully/bullies either with or without the person that's being bullied depending on that person's/parents' wishes.
 - The Headteacher should be informed.

- A suitable and appropriate action plan should be put in place. This may include missing break, meetings with the head teacher, support sessions with the learning mentors, exclusion (internal or formal).
 - The teacher must 'check in' with the person who has been bullied every day for the following week, then once a week for 2 weeks to make sure they are ok – the child must tell their teacher / an adult at home straight away if bullying behaviours start again.
7. There should be separate extra sessions to help the bully/bullies change their behaviour and the person who has been bullied to build their confidence.

How this looks to adults who care for our children;

1. Children should be encouraged to report all incidents of bullying to a member of staff.
2. All incidents of bullying should be investigated and records kept by the class teacher. Serious or persistent incidents of bullying should be referred to the Deputy or the Chief Executive Officer at their discretion. If either of the children are in a vulnerable group the relevant leader should be informed so that they can lend support.
3. Parents may be informed when appropriate and may be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.
4. Members of the Special Needs Staff may become involved in the problem.
5. Each case will be treated separately and the appropriate action or sanction will be applied.
6. The bully/bullies will need to understand his/her wrongdoings and be helped to appreciate any distress caused. He/she should apologize and attempt to reconcile the problem. The concept of empathy with another child's feelings is an important issue.
7. In serious or persistent cases, where corrective action and special needs involvement does not change the pattern of behaviour, a formal warning will be issued to the child and his/her parents. Any continued acts of bullying may result in exclusion at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Prevention

New Horizons Seaside Primary acknowledges that prevention is better than intervention. The ethos within the school is of vital importance here. The school rules, the fostering of mutual respect and our commitment to personal and social education will contribute to this aim. We teach direct and preventative lessons regarding bullying through our PD and RSE sessions and also build on this learning through regular assemblies. In addition to this, our ongoing PD sessions help to prevent bullying of vulnerable groups by building understanding and empathy (see also Personal Development and Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policies). This document forms part of a larger policy on behaviour in general. Children, staff and parents need to understand the reasons for these policies and need to work together to achieve a happy and secure school for everyone.

E-Safety (see the Online Safeguarding and AU Policy)

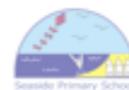
Cyber-Bullying occurs away from the school premises and can be a criminal offence. However, we are committed to the wellbeing of our children and will support parents as much as we are able to regarding Cyber-Bullying. We take precautions in school to limit opportunities for Cyber-Bullying and actively embark on preventative lessons. Practical advice for tackling Cyber-Bullying is found in Appendix 2.

Children are not allowed to use mobile phones on the premises at New Horizons Seaside Primary. In accordance with our Mobile Phone Policy, children are only permitted to bring a mobile phone to school if parents have given permission in writing for their children to walk home alone at the end of the school day at 2.50pm. This will normally only apply to children in Year 6.

Mobile phones are to be handed in to class teachers at the start of the school day and will be returned to children at the end of the school day. Any pupil who does not follow the rules for handing their phone in will have their phone confiscated. This will need to be collected from school by a Parent / Carer and the pupil in question will be banned from bringing their phone into school in the future. Children are not allowed to take mobile phones on school trips or on residential visits.

There are specific direct and preventative lessons regarding Online Safeguarding that are taught throughout each year group as part of the computing and Personal Development schemes of work.

In addition to the guidance provided in this document Appendix 3 provides teachers and parents with further advice and support. It is essential that we have the support of everyone connected with New Horizons Seaside Primary over aspects of behaviour. This policy has been agreed by pupils, staff, parents and governors.



Is it Bullying?

When someone **says** or **does** something **unintentionally** hurtful and they do it **once...**

THAT'S AN ACCIDENT – NOT MEAN

What can you do?

- ✓ Tell them how this makes you feel and why
- ✓ If they say sorry, choose whether to move on
- ✓ Walk away from them if they don't say sorry
- ✓ Report it to a teacher or an adult if you need to

When someone **says** or **does** something **intentionally** hurtful and they do it **once...**

THAT'S MEAN – NOT BULLYING

What can you do?

- ✓ Tell them how it has made you feel and why
- ✓ Move away from them
- ✓ Report it to a teacher or an adult straight away – take a friend with you if that helps you

When someone **says** or **does** something **intentionally** hurtful and they **keep doing it...**

THAT'S BULLYING!

What can you do?

- ✓ Ask them to stop
- ✓ Report it to a teacher or an adult straight away – take a friend with you if that helps you
- ✓ If you think you are being bullied on your phone or device, keep the messages and show an adult at home
- ✓ Stay strong – You will be helped

REMINDE TO BE KIND

Appendix 1: KS2 Classroom Anti-Bullying Poster



Appendix 1:

As part of our Anti-Bullying Policy review in December 2021, which involved our staff, Pupil Governors, members of our Local Governing Body and parents of pupils at Seaside, our Pupil Governors also worked hard on creating new classroom posters.

These are designed to help children correctly identify if behaviours they witness or experience can be classified as bullying, and if so, what they can do about it.

Further to this, we also organised a visit to each class from the Anti-Bullying Workshop Company. The workshops offered a range of activities to enable children to identify what bullying is, how to prevent it and reinforced the national Anti-Bullying Theme for the year: One Kind Word. This, in turn, inspired our Pupil Governors' choice of school Anti-Bullying slogan: Remind To Be Kind.

<https://antibullyingworkshop.co.uk>

Appendix 2 (see also the **Acceptable Use of ICT and E-Safety Policy)**

Cyber-Bullying Advice

What is cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying usually happens through calls or texts on mobile phones as well as through internet chat rooms and emails. Bullying of this sort can be a criminal offence. Making offensive calls is a criminal offence. If an individual is found guilty a large fine may have to be paid. It is also possible to receive a six-month prison sentence.

The advice to a young person being bullied through mobile phones or the internet is don't be afraid to report it to the police. The police take Internet and mobile phone bullying very seriously. There is no need to be repeatedly upset by unpleasant pictures or messages. Let the law help you put a stop to it.

Mobile Phone Bullying

Mobile phones offer bullies a number of ways to frighten, embarrass, upset and intimidate others. This can be done through the following:

Abusive text messages: Text messages that upset, embarrass, humiliate, intimidate or frighten others in some way are abusive and are unacceptable. Sometimes, phones where the phone number will not be recognized are used to ensure that the person at the other end answers and sees the message.

Frightening phone calls: Calls which frighten others may include silence (causing confusion and worry), verbal abuse, threats of physical violence, and intimidation. Sometimes, phones, where the phone number will not be recognized, are used to ensure that the person at the other end answers and hears the message.

Picture messages that are intended to in any way upset, embarrass or humiliate are unacceptable. Sometimes there are photos that an individual did not know had been taken or they may be photos that an individual may not wish to share because they are upsetting or embarrassing. Individuals should understand that videos can be taken on mobile phones and very quickly distributed to the Internet. Pictures that were taken in the afternoon can be on the Internet before someone gets home from school.

Internet Bullying

Individuals can be bullied via the Internet and social network sites. Text and pictures can be used to humiliate, frighten, intimidate, or in some way upset others. In serious cases the police are able to trace where distressing messages and pictures came from. It is possible to discover which computer was used. Any one indulging in cyber bullying should be aware that it is ultimately traceable.

Advice on stopping cyber bullying

The best way to stop any form of cyber bullying either via the Internet or mobile phone is to change your e-mail address and phone number and to stop looking on social network sites. It doesn't have to be for ever, a couple of weeks is fine. Bullying is like a monster that feeds on responses and others distress; don't feed the monster by responding. While this is probably inconvenient, it is a very quick way to stop receiving unpleasant messages, photographs and texts. Once you have a new number, be very careful who you give it to.

Make a note of who you pass your number to.

It is also important to let an adult know that this is happening and how it is being dealt with. Do not delete abusive texts, messages and pictures. Put them into a separate folder, do not look at them, they are evidence for others to look at and see what you've been suffering. The police, your Internet provider or mobile phone company may need your evidence if they investigate.

Report the bullying to the internet provider or the mobile phone company you are with. Even where numbers are withheld mobile phone companies may be able to trace the account of the person calling or texting. Mobile phone companies and internet providers all deal with bullying differently, so contact the customer helpline to find out whom to speak to.

Social networking sites have buttons that enable blocking of messages from certain people and places. Most social networking sites have buttons to link to an area to report abuse. Use those opportunities. **There is no need to suffer in silence.**

Appendix 3

Support and Resources

Online resources

- Anti-bullying information may be found on the **Department for Education** website at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- **National Strategies Primary and Secondary Anti-Bullying / SEAL** resources (now to be found in National Archives):
webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110113104120/http://nationalstrategies

Specialist organisations

- **Restorative Justice Council**, advocates for the development of restorative practice with government and provides information to the public through their website. Best Practice Guidance 2011 is available from their web site: <http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/>
- **The Anti-Bullying Alliance**. Founded in 2002 by the NSPCC and National Children's Bureau, the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) brings together over 100 organisations into one network. More details can be found on its web site: <http://www.Anti-Bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Cyber-bullying

- Anti-Bullying package for computers that works on and off line from www.securus-software.com
- **Childnet International**: Specialist resource for young people to raise awareness of online safety and how to protect themselves. Information can be found at: <http://www.childnet-int.org/>

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender

- **Education Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH)**. The helpline is available to young people from 10.00 am until 5.00 pm Monday to Friday and 10.00 am until Midday on Saturdays. All calls are answered by professionally trained call handlers, and treated in confidence. The helpline number is 0808 1000 143. For more information please visit: www.eachaction.org.uk

- **Stonewall** works for equality for lesbians, gay males and bisexuals. It has useful resources for schools. More details can be found on its website: www.stonewall.org.uk
- **GIRES** encourages research both into the origins of atypical gender identity development and transsexualism and researches the way that society reacts to the people experiencing these conditions. It develops good practice guidelines, education programmes and literature. For more information please visit www.gires.org.uk

Equalities

- One of the roles of the **Equalities and Human Rights Commission** is to look at how schools have been implementing the new equality duties and how they are meeting the needs of pupils. It's most recent findings and proposals are published in the document:

'The Equality Duties and Schools: Lessons for the Future'

This can be downloaded from their website: www.equalityhumanrights.com

The Law

- The website of the **Children's Legal Centre** has a very useful document entitled Bullying: A guide to the law. This can be found at the Children's Legal Centre website: <http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>