



Rich fields of learning



# Butterknowle Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy

**Name of School:** Butterknowle Primary School

**Date of Policy:** March 2022

**Member of Staff Responsible:** Head teacher

**Review Date:** March 2024

**Consultation:** This policy has been drawn up by the staff, children and governors at Butterknowle Primary School following guidance.

## AIMS

At Butterknowle Primary School we aim to:

- Develop an ethos in which bullying is unacceptable
- Put in place systems of identification and support to deal with bullying issues
- Create a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety
- Respond quickly and consistently to any bullying incidents
- Make all those connected with our school aware of our zero tolerance of bullying
- Make clear each person's responsibility with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school

## INTRODUCTION

At Butterknowle Primary School we believe that every child has a right to:

- Receive respect from others and give respect to everyone
- Speak and be listened to
- Have the freedom to choose
- Be safe and secure

Staff, parents and governors work together to nurture an ethos and follow practice where conflict can be resolved constructively so that everyone belonging to Butterknowle can feel secure and happy within the school environment. Bullying will not

be tolerated. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent occurrences of bullying and to play their part in dealing with incidents quickly and effectively.

## **DEFINITION**

Bullying can be described as any behaviour that is deliberately intended to hurt, threaten or frighten another person or group of people. It is usually unprovoked, persistent and can continue for a long period of time. It always reflects an abuse of power.

The three main types of bullying are:

- **Physical**

This includes hitting, kicking, scratching and the taking or deliberate damaging of property.

- **Verbal**

This includes name calling, insulting or discriminatory remarks (racist, sexist, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic), teasing, threats and extortion or sending nasty notes, text messages, emails etc.

- **Indirect**

This includes ostracising or the spreading of nasty stories about someone and social exclusion of an individual.

Racist, sexist, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic harassment involves the same kind of behaviour directed against someone because of their culture or identity, their gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.

## **STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING BULLYING**

Bullying can be difficult to identify because it is often subtle, covert and rarely witnessed by adults. However, some of the warning signs can include:

### **Individual signs**

- Torn clothing and damaged books
- Sudden mood swings
- Loss of belongings
- Requests to be accompanied to and from school
- Bedwetting
- Nail biting
- Nervous tics
- Sleep walking
- Flinching
- Underachievement
- School refusal
- Temper flare ups
- Physical marks
- Avoidance of certain days
- Psychosomatic illness

### **Whole school signs**

- Graffiti
- Frequent name calling
- Poor attendance
- Pupils appearing to be afraid
- Social exclusion
- Pupils being alone at break times
- Pupils not willing to approach adults

## **STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING**

At Butterknowle Primary School there are five key principles that underpin our procedure

for dealing with bullying. These are:

- Never ignore suspected bullying
- Don't make assumptions
- Listen carefully to all accounts
- Adopt a problem-solving approach
- Follow up shortly after the intervention and some time after to check the bullying hasn't resumed

As a school we play a proactive approach in promoting anti-bullying. We hold anti-bullying events on a regular basis. This includes a whole school focus on 'Say No to Bullying!' as part of our Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programme. We also welcome visitors to lead assemblies who might offer support to victims of bullying, e.g. NSPCC. The school is working towards an Educate & Celebrate best practice school award for LGBT+Inclusion , which supports anti-bullying work.

Staff and pupils play a part in promoting anti-bullying.

Our lunchtime supervisors report any sign of bullying or associated behaviours to the Senior Leadership Team.

If, on any occasion, bullying is suspected of taking place the following procedures should be adhered to:

- Discuss the incident with the victim
- Identify the accused bully/ies
- Obtain witnesses if possible
- Advise the Senior Leadership Team
- Confront the bully/ies to investigate
- If allegations are substantiated implement sanctions appropriate to the incident
- Inform the parents of the victim and the bully of the details

## **WORKING WITH PARENTS**

At Butterknowle Primary School we believe in the importance of working in partnership

with parents. As such, we ensure that our staff understand the value in meeting and communicating with parents regularly to discuss any concerns.

Parents should make contact with the class teacher initially whenever they have any concerns. The class teacher may decide to involve colleagues in any discussions depending on the nature of the concerns.

When responding to parents, it is important to listen to and write down concerns raised. In order to prevent a misunderstanding, staff are encouraged to read back any concerns as they understand them. Parents should be reassured and explained that an investigation will take place. Under no circumstances should a parent be informed of an outcome prior to the member of staff investigating the incident(s).

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **STAFF:**

It is the collective responsibility of all staff members including lunchtime supervisors, admin staff, teaching assistants and teaching staff to:

- Report any concerns about incidents which could affect the health or wellbeing of anyone in the school to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher
- Encourage and promote anti-bullying through directly or indirectly
- Listen to any child or parent that has any concerns including those related to bullying incidents
- Follow the procedures outlined in this policy when dealing with any suspected incidents of bullying

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM:**

It is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team to:

- Ensure that the anti-bullying policy is implemented in school and shared with all stakeholders
- Promote anti-bullying in various ways, e.g. through timetabled assemblies, through conversations with children and through display work
- Report to the Governing Body, as necessary, on any bullying issues
- Liaise with the Local Authority, as necessary, if a period of fixed term or permanent exclusion is required
- Support staff in dealing with bullying incidents and meet with parents as necessary to support the actions of staff members
- Keep accurate records of all bullying incidents

### **GOVERNORS**

The Governing Body will:

- Support the Head Teacher in attempts to eliminate bullying from Butterknowle Primary
- Monitor the incidents of bullying that occur and review the effectiveness of this policy through discussion at Governing Body meetings

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

The parents/guardians will:

- Raise any concerns that they may have with their child's class teacher
- Support the actions of the school when carrying out investigations/dealing with any incidents
- Promote the anti-bullying work that the school does by sharing in conversations about this at home

### **CHILDREN**

The children will:

- Treat others with courtesy and respect at all times
- Not bully another person in any way
- Respect the differences between themselves and others
- Talk to an adult immediately if they are worried about bullying

### **MONITORING & REVIEW**

The Anti-Bullying Policy is reviewed on an annual basis through consultation with all stakeholders.

The Head Teacher monitors the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis and reports to the Governing Body as appropriate, including making any recommendations for improvement.

A variety of records are held in school regarding behaviour. These include records of any reported incidents. If relevant, notes from meetings with pupils and parents are stored. Any information, which might relate to Child Protection, is stored with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Head Teacher keeps a record of any fixed term or permanent exclusions that have been enforced at Butterknowle Primary School.

### **Butterknowle Primary School Anti-Bullying Promise**

We promise...

- To stand up for what we believe in.
- To be kind and respectful to everyone.
- To tell an adult when someone is sad or hurt.
- To never bully anyone.
- To make our school a happy and safe place to be.

Head Teacher: Clare Carr

Chair of Governors: P.W. Tennick

Reviewed: March 2022

Review Date: March 2024