



Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Policy agreed: February 2019
Policy reviewed: September 2025
Policy Review: September 2026

We are a diverse, loving community, committed to providing firm foundations built on God's love and forgiveness for all. Within our family of learners, guided by Jesus' example, we nurture and encourage every individual to have the confidence to achieve their own potential, now and in the future.

This policy is based on DfE guidance "Preventing and Tackling Bullying" July 2017 and supporting documents. It also takes into account the DfE statutory guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2024. The school has read Childnet's "Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools". This policy is underpinned by the Church of England's 'Valuing All God's Children 2017' document.

Links to legislation

There are a number of pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986

Statement of Intent

At Chilham, St. Mary's 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 let someone know so that the bullying will stop.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

(DFE Preventing and tackling bullying advice, updated 2017)

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber - All areas of internet such as email & internet chat room misuse, social media use

Love

Trust

Respect

Honesty

Forgiveness

Perseverance

- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
- Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

At Chilham St Mary's we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

- All governors, staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is
- All governors and staff know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported
- All pupils and parents 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

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 unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- 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

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

Recording

All concerns will be recorded by the school. If the incidents have been reported to the class teacher, they will investigate and report to the Headteacher or senior teacher.

Parents of all children involved will be informed of what has happened if appropriate, and how it has been dealt with. All discussions and actions relating to the incident/investigation will be documented

Dealing with an Incident

Whenever a bullying incident is discovered, the school will go through a number of steps. The exact nature of each step will be adapted to suit the nature and severity of the incident, and the response of those involved.

1) The children, families and staff need to be made aware that when a bullying incident has come to the attention of adults in the school, it has been taken seriously and action has resulted.

2) The school will support all involved by doing some or all of the following as appropriate:

- Talking the incident through with all parties involved including parents of all children

- Empowering and supporting the child who has been bullied to express their feelings, reassuring them so they feel safe
- Supporting the person displaying the bullying behaviour to express their feelings
- Discussing which school rule(s) have been broken
- Discussing strategies for making amends

3) Measures will be in line with the school's behaviour policy, and may include:

- Explanation why the inappropriate behaviour is unacceptable
- Reparation of damaged relationships
- Time out from the playground
- Removal from attendance at after school clubs or sporting events
- Meeting with staff, parent and child
- Formal letter, email or phone call home from the senior staff member expressing concerns
- Providing a named support adult for the child being bullied
- Friendship group set up for child being bullied
- Behaviour support plan
- Involvement with external agencies

4) Safeguarding procedures will be followed when child protection concerns arise.

5) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored by a senior staff member to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

If an incident of bullying outside the school premises or online is reported to the school, it will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

Cyberbullying

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 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.
 - Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and also the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' guidance.
 - 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 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 to 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 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Pupils who have perpetrated the 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 policy; this may include official warnings, missed playtimes, 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 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as appropriate.

Supporting adults

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

Adults (staff and parents) who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher
- 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 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 school's 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 (staff and parents) who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher to establish the concern
- 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

Specific guidance is available for school leaders regarding dealing with complaints made on social networking sites by parents/carers: www.kelsi.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety

Prevention

At Chilham St Mary's, we are committed to reinforcing the anti-bullying message through the following measures:

- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays; having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- raising awareness of bullying issues during collective worship
- discussing bullying during PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) sessions
- developing self-esteem of pupils through targeted activities
- reinforcing positive friendship skills
- advising parents of incidents at an early stage
- following up incidents to ensure that bullying has not resumed

Monitoring and review: putting policy into practice

- The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning
- The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate
- The named Governor for safeguarding will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes

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-practice-schools

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: www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf

- DfE: SEND code of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

Cyberbullying

- Childnet International: www.childnet.com
- Digizen: www.digizen.org
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- 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

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.tellmama.org
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational

LGBT

- Barnardos 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
- A Guide for Schools: www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAW-Coalition-Schools-Guide.pdf
- Disrespect No Body: www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaign-posters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-gender-related