

Woore Primary and Nursery School Anti-bullying policy



Full Governors	Autumn 2024
Review	Autumn 2025

This policy takes into account the following documents:

- **Preventing and Tackling Bullying Advice for Head Teachers, Staff and Governing Bodies DfE – July-2017**
- **Working Together to Safeguard children 2023**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2024**
- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2024**
- **Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership (SSP)**
- **Anti-Bullying Charter 2014**
- **SSP Child Protection Procedures 2024**

Context

Bullying takes place in schools as it does in other work places.

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils in this school learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at this school.

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

Many experts say that bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. This could involve perpetrators of bullying having control over the relationship which makes it difficult for those they bully to defend themselves. The imbalance of power can manifest itself in several ways, it may be physical, psychological (knowing what upsets someone), derive from an intellectual imbalance, or by having access to the support of a group, or the capacity to socially isolate. It can result in the intimidation of a person or persons through the threat of violence or by isolating them either physically or online.

Online-bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Online-bullying is a different form of bullying and

can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

The Education Act 2011 amended the power in the Education Act 1996 to provide that when an electronic device, such as a mobile phone, has been seized by a member of staff who has been formally authorised by the headteacher, that staff member can examine data or files, and delete these, where there is good reason to do so. This power applies to all schools and there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone.

If an electronic device that is prohibited by the school rules has been seized and the member of staff has reasonable ground to suspect that it contains evidence in relation to an offence, they must give the device to the police as soon as it is reasonably practicable. Material on the device that is suspected to be evidence relevant to an offence, or that is a pornographic image of a child or an extreme pornographic image, should not be deleted prior to giving the device to the police.¹ If a staff member finds material that they do not suspect contains evidence in relation to an offence, they can decide whether it is appropriate to delete or retain the material as evidence of a breach of school discipline.

Bullying includes:

name-calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, pushing or taking belongings

inappropriate text messaging, emailing, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet/apps

producing offensive graffiti

gossiping, excluding people from groups, and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

All members of Woore Primary and Nursery School are expected to behave with consideration and care for one another.

Bullying is a conscious desire to hurt, to threaten, to frighten someone or to obtain power over someone. This is completely unacceptable behaviour.

Although sometimes occurring between two individuals in isolation, bullying quite often takes place in the presence of others, for example, between pupils, between pupils and staff, or between staff; by individuals or groups; face to face, indirectly or using a range of methods.

Pupils being bullied may demonstrate emotional and/or behaviour problems including signs of depression, physical problems such as headaches and stomach pains, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school.

Pupils are encouraged to report bullying in this school by talking to a member of staff, other pupils, and their own parents. Bullying is approached in school through discussions in PSHE, assemblies, safer schools work, through posters and other materials developed by the pupils.

Parents are informed of the school's stance on anti-bullying, its definition of bullying and how parents and the school can work together through parents evenings, home/school agreement, the school website, anti-bullying week, safer schools work, and displaying the Anti-bullying Charter.

All school staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly, sensitively and effectively against it in accordance with school policy. There is no "hierarchy" of bullying – all forms of bullying should be taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately. This is the case even where incidents occur outside the school premises (***The DFE guidance on preventing and tackling bullying-July 2017 gives headteachers the power to discipline pupils even where incidents of bad behaviour take place outside school premises and when the pupils are beyond the lawful control of school staff***).

Bullying which occurs outside school premises

School staff members have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises. Sections 90 and 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 say that a school's disciplinary powers can be used to address pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff, but only if it would be reasonable for the school to regulate pupils' behaviour in those circumstances. This may include bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The headteacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the action taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed. While school staff members have the power to discipline pupils for bullying that occurs outside school, they can only impose the disciplinary sanction and implement that sanction on the school premises or when the pupil is under the lawful control of school staff, for instance on a school trip.

This policy is linked directly to the following policies:

Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Confidentiality Policy

Equality Policy

PSHE policy

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Aims of this Policy

The aims of the school's anti-bullying strategies and intervention systems are to:

- prevent, de-escalate and/or stop any continuation of harmful behaviour in line with the Behaviour Policy
- react to bullying incidents in a reasonable, proportionate and consistent way
- safeguard those pupils who have experienced bullying and those who have been involved in the act of bullying, and to trigger actions to support these pupils.

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the Governing body

Governors have the responsibility to ensure that the anti-bullying policy is in place, that it reflects school's values and practice, and is reviewed annually. The governors should agree the principles of Shropshire Children's Trust and Safeguarding Children Board Anti-Bullying Charter and ensure this is clearly displayed in the school

The governing body must make, and from time to time review, a written statement of general principles to guide the head teacher in determining measures to promote good behaviour.

Governors are informed of, and monitor, the numbers of incidents and steps the headteacher and staff have taken to deal with these.

Governors will ensure there is a Senior Designated Lead for Child Protection leading on bullying related to radicalisation and extremism.

The role of the head teacher and staff:

1. Policy and procedures

There is a senior member of staff who leads on anti-bullying:

Name: Mrs Michelle Ward Role: Headteacher

All staff are made aware of this policy and its clear links to other key policies.

The following steps will be taken by staff when dealing with incidents:

- if bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be taken seriously and appropriate first steps are taken promptly by the member of staff who has been approached
- each incident will be investigated thoroughly, sensitively and effectively
- a clear account of the incident, actions taken and review date will be recorded, given to the head teacher/senior manager and kept so incidents can be monitored
- relevant staff will be kept informed and if the bullying persists they will record this and inform the head teacher/senior manager, and appropriate further action is taken
- parents/carers will be kept informed appropriately
- appropriate rewards and sanctions in line with the school's Behaviour Policy will be used to support the improvement of pupils' behaviour
- the school will inform the Local Authority of any hate or prejudice related incident as part of the school's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 and in support of the Shropshire Tackling Hate Crime Initiative; a report form is available through the Shropshire Learning Gateway.

2. Pupil support

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported as appropriate by: Their Class Teacher and Teaching Assistants

- having an immediate opportunity to discuss the incident(s) with an appropriate member of staff
- being reassured
- being offered support
- raising their self-esteem and confidence
- being encouraged to report further issues
- arranging a review date/time to discuss outcomes and appropriate follow-up

Pupils who have bullied will be supported by: Their Class Teacher and Teaching Assistants

- having an immediate opportunity to discuss the incident(s) with an appropriate member of staff
- establishing what behaviour was inappropriate and why the pupil became involved
- establishing clearly what behaviour needs to change, and how the school can support this change (linked to Behaviour Policy)
- informing parents/carers of agreed actions, and establishing how they can support
- arranging a review date/time to discuss outcomes and appropriate follow-up

3. Curriculum

Pupils will have opportunities to develop their understanding of the nature of bullying, to explore their own and others attitudes to bullying and to develop the skills to deal with bullying through PSHE and other subject areas and through assemblies and other school activities. There is a particular focus on bullying in November during Anti-Bullying Week.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy bi-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness regularly

Shropshire Schools Hate-Related Incident Report Form

Completed forms may be submitted by email to EducationImprovementService@shropshire.gov.uk; by Fax to 01743 254538 or by post to EIS, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND. Reports can also be made verbally on 01743 254386.

Numbers of incidents reported and nature of those incidents are reported to the Hate Crime Reporting Sub-group. The information is used to help inform community-based interventions to counter the problems identified. Specific support at school can be offered on request.

School name

Section A: About the Incident/s

What do you think motivated this incident? (indicate all relevant characteristics)

- Race
 Religion / culture
 Sex
 Disability
 Sexual orientation
 Gender identity/presentation
 Age*
 Other (please define)

**age discrimination legislation does not apply to the treatment of pupils or provision of education.*

Section B: Tell us about the incident in your own words; giving as much detail as possible (please use a separate sheet if necessary):

When did the incident take place?

Time Day Date

Where did it happen?

Area of school / Street name or location if outside school / via electronic media (please give details below)

What happened?

What injuries were suffered (Physical? Emotional?) Please give details below:-

Was any property lost or damaged: Yes (if yes please give details below) No

Frequency or duration of behaviour

- Once or twice
 Persisting over one school term
 Several times a week
 Persisting for more than a year

Section C: About the Victim

Is the victim Pupil Staff member Other adult Other child

(Name of victim is not needed in this context)

Sex M/F Is this same as birth? Y/N

If child - Year Group /Age

If adult - Age Group: 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-55 Over 55

Please indicate in the appropriate box how you would describe the victim:

Religion/belief

- Buddhist Rastafarian Don't know
 Christian Sikh
 Hindu Other
 Jewish No religion
 Muslim Prefer not to say

Sexual orientation

- Heterosexual
 Bisexual
 Gay/Lesbian
 Prefer not to say
 Don't know

Ethnicity

- White British White & Black Caribbean Any other black background
 White & Black African Indian Chinese
 White Irish Pakistani Any other ethnic background
 White & Asian Bangladeshi Prefer not to say
 Other white background Black Caribbean Don't know
 Any other mixed background Black African
 Eastern European

Is the victim from a Gypsy or Traveller background?

- Yes No Don't know

Disability – please describe

Don't know

Section D: About the offender(s)

Details, with Year or age group/s if pupil/s; ethnicity; gender/gender identity; other relevant characteristics
(Name/s of offender/s not needed in this context)

If adult - Age Group:

- 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-55 Over 55

Role / reason for presence at school

If offender/s is/are unknown, can you describe them? (Consider height, ethnicity, build and clothing).

Section E: What now?

Details of actions agreed with everyone involved – including parents and carers where appropriate:

Outcomes of follow up

Section F: Details of person reporting (victim, witness or third party)

Form Completed by:

Role: **Date**

Date this incident was reported to the authority:

Police involvement:

Does the person reporting / victim/parents or carers / school want the Police to investigate?

- Yes No

APPENDIX 2

The Legal Framework:

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

There are a number of statutory obligations on schools with regard to behaviour which establish clear responsibilities to respond to bullying. In particular section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

provides that every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour

and **prevent all forms of bullying** amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents; gives head teachers the ability to ensure that pupils behave when they are not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

The Equality Act 2010 replaces previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. A key provision is a new Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which came into force on 5 April 2011 and with which schools are now required to comply. It replaces the three previous public sector equality duties for race, disability and gender, and also covers nine 'protected characteristics' disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, age, marriage or civil partnership. The final two are not relevant to a school's dealings with its pupils but would be part of their duties as an employer.

The Duty has three aims.

It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it;

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Schools are now required to comply with the new Equality Duty and additional specific duties require them:

To publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the PSED and to publish at least one equality objective

The Act also makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, provision of pupil access to any benefit, facility or service, or by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment. In England and Wales the Act applies to all maintained and independent schools, including Academies and Free Schools, and maintained and non-maintained special schools

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care team. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child doing the bullying.

Criminal Law

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communications – could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986.

Under the Equality Act 2010, an offence could be committed when bullying relates to a protected characteristic.

If staff members feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police. For example, under the Malicious Communication Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the "sender."