



The Governors and Staff of Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School believe the policies and procedures we write help us to continuously improve the school and develop our pupils to become life-long learners and valuable citizens of the future.

Our School Vision

We are a strong 'family', passionate about providing creative and aspirational learning opportunities. We are courageous advocates for the planet, learning to speak out for others' locally, nationally and globally. Rooted in the strength of God, we respect, cherish and nurture the unique abilities of each member of our community.

We are dedicated to providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our Christian values of:

Kindness Forgiveness Courage Service

Policy Title:	Anti Bullying Policy
Date:	September 2023
Review Date:	September 2025
Reviewed by:	S Holman
Approved by:	FGB

Designated Safeguarding Lead (s):

Sarah Holman Headteacher
Sharmila Desai Deputy Headteacher
Anna Wolfe SENCO
Joanne Ridgway FLO

Governor with lead responsibility:

Emily Hill Safeguarding Governor

Disclaimer and Usage

The Education People make every effort to ensure that the information in this document is accurate and up to date. If errors are brought to our attention, we will correct them as soon as practicable.

The copyright of these materials is held by The Education People. However, educational settings that access our Education Safeguarding Package are granted permission to use all or part of the materials for not-forprofit use, providing the Education People copyright is acknowledged.

This policy is based on DfE guidance "[Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)" July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance "[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)" and [Behaviour in schools](#) guidance. The school has also read Childnet's "[Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools](#)".

1. Policy objectives:

This policy outlines what Sissinghurst VA CEP School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.

As a school we are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people will not be tolerated in any form.

We are committed to creating a school where children and staff are happy; where there is a culture that is protective and supportive, striving for an environment where no one is humiliated, abused or intimidated. We recognise the serious detrimental effects of bullying, be they physical, psychological, or emotional. National studies have shown that bullying is present within every school, and with this in mind we aim to ensure that everyone remains vigilant in detecting bullying behaviour, and that immediate appropriate action is instigated, and support offered when bullying occurs.

If bullying does occur, everybody should be able to tell someone 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 tell someone who can help.

We use 'The 3 Tells':

- Tell the person that you don't like what they have said or done and that it hurt or upset you
- If it happens again – tell them again and say that if they keep doing it you will need to tell a grown up
- Tell a grown up (sometimes it is necessary to tell a grown up straight away)

2. Links with other school policies and practices

This policy links with several school policies, practices and action plans including:

- School Behaviour policy, Complaints policy, Child Protection policy including online safety, Acceptable Use of Technology Policies (AUP) and Remote Learning AUP, Mobile and Smart Technology Policy, Social media policies
- Curriculum policies, such as: PSHE and computing

3. 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, including Public Sector Equality Duty
 - The Children Act 1989
 - Protection from Harassment Act 1997
 - The Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - Public Order Act 1986

4. Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of:
 - The headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.
 - Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
 - All staff, including governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.
 - Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.
 - Pupils to abide by the policy.

5. 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 is recognised by Sissinghurst VA CEP School as being a form of child-on-child abuse and that children can abuse other children.
- Bullying can include physical and emotional abuse such name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; peer isolation (for example, excluding people from groups) and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- The same unacceptable behaviours can be expressed online; this is sometimes called online bullying or cyberbullying. Specifically this can include sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.

- Sissinghurst VA CEP School recognises that bullying can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.
- Sissinghurst VA CEP School believes that bullying should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".
- We recognise that even if there are no reports of bullying, it does not mean it is not happening and it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
- All victims of bullying will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.

6. Forms and types of bullying covered by this policy

- Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including but not limited to:
 - Bullying related to physical appearance o Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
 - Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions, Physical bullying, Emotional bullying, Sexualised bullying/harassment, Bullying via technology, known as online bullying or cyberbullying, Prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics) which may include:
 - Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
 - Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
 - Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
 - Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
 - Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying
 - Bullying against teenage parents (pregnancy and maternity under the Equality Act)

7. School ethos

- Sissinghurst VA CEP School community recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing.
- Bullying is not tolerated at Sissinghurst VA CEP School and any reported incidents will be dealt with quickly and effectively.
- By effectively preventing and tackling bullying, our school can help to create a safe and positive environment, where pupils are safe and feel safe, are treated respectfully and are able to learn and fulfil their potential.
- Our Community:
 - Understands the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children.
 - Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
 - Supports staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
 - Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; this may include children with SEND. Being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
 - Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
 - Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.

- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed at all stages.
- Will deal promptly with grievances regarding the school response to bullying in line with our complaints policy.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

8. Responding to bullying concerns

- The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school:
 - If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
 - 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 headteacher will interview all parties involved.
 - The headteacher, as DSL, will be informed of all bullying concerns, especially where there may be safeguarding issues.
 - A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
 - 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.
 - Appropriate sanctions and support, for example as identified within the school behaviour policy and child protection policy, 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 Integrated Children Services or Early Help, if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
 - Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online/cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated and responded to in line with this policy and the school behaviour policy. If required, the DSL will collaborate with DSLs at other schools.

Online bullying

When responding to online bullying 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.
- o 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 our Behaviour, Child Protection and AUP policies. (We will access the DfE '[Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)' and [Childnet](#) cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the school's powers are used proportionately and lawfully).
 - Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies. o Where an individual can be identified, the school will ensure that appropriate sanctions are implemented to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help or support 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 consider and manage any 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 immediate 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.
 - 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 Integrated Children's Services, or support through the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CYPMHS).
- 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 policy; this may include:
 - official warnings,
 - detentions,
 - removal of privileges (including online access when encountering cyberbullying concerns), and
 - in extreme or repeated cases, 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 (CYPMHS).

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 headteacher/designated safeguarding lead, and/or a senior member of staff.
 - Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns.
 - 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 schools' behaviour 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 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.

9. Preventing bullying Environment

The whole school community will:

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

- Recognise the potential for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or health issues, children from ethnic minorities, and children who or who are perceived by other children to be lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBT), whether they are or not can be disproportionately impacted by bullying. As such we will endeavour to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for children to speak out or share their concerns.
- Recognise that bullying may be affected and influenced by gender, age, ability and culture of those involved.
- 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 which lead all to show 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-based and discriminatory bullying.
- Actively create "safe spaces" for vulnerable children and young people.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and 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 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 and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school 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 self-esteem.

10. Involvement of pupils

- We will:
- Involve pupils in policy writing and decision making, to ensure that they understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they play in preventing bullying.
- Regularly canvas pupils' views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

11. Involvement and liaison with parents and carers

- We will:
- Take steps to involve parents and carers in developing policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of bullying.
- Make sure that key information about prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats, including via the school website
- Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively, to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

12. 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 bullying (Safeguarding Governor Emily Hill) will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes.

13. Useful links and supporting organisations

The following links may provide additional support to children, staff or families.

- 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
- 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

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Report Harmful Content: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>
- Think U Know / CEOP Education: 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 ⁷ DfE 'Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying ⁷
DfE 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

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.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/at-risk-groups/sen-disability
- DfE: SEND code of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

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.srrtc.org/educational

LGBTQ+

- Barnardo's LGBT Hub: [www.barnardos.org.uk/what we do/our work/lgbtq.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm)
- Metro Charity: www.metrocentreonline.org
- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Proud Trust: www.theprouddtrust.org
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

- NSPCC 'Report Abuse in Education' Helpline: [0800 136 663](tel:0800136663) or help@nspcc.org.uk 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: <https://antibullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-sexistbullying/preventing-sexual-bullying>
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying: <https://antibullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-sexistbullying/investigating-and-responding-sexual>
- Childnet Project DeShame (Online Sexual Harassment and Bullying): <https://www.childnet.com/what-we-do/our-projects/project-deshame/>