

# Wootton Bassett Infants' School

## Anti-Bullying Policy

Updated: October 2022

Review: October 2023

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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.

### What is Bullying?

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person by another, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be carried out physically, verbally, emotionally or through cyberspace.

Bullying can be:

- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse mobile threats by text message & calls
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic This includes homophobic, biophobic and transphobic

### Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

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.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

### Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should 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.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

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### Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs of behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to and from school
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels poorly in the morning
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with torn clothes or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay a bully)
- Has unexplained cuts and bruises
- 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.

### Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully(bullies) change their behaviour

### Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
3. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
4. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

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### **Prevention**

To help prevent bullying, we will when appropriate, use some of these methods:

- Writing out a set of rules
- Signing a behaviour contract
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters

### **Wootton Bassett infants' School is committed to:**

- Respecting each other
- Embracing difference
- Working together to eliminate bullying