

## **New Marston Anti bullying policy**

This Policy outlines what New Marston Primary School will do to prevent and tackle bullying.

New Marston does not tolerate any form of bullying and will act in line with this policy if bullying occurs. We expect pupils, parents and staff to behave in line with our school values (Kindness, Integrity, Grit, Growth, Community) at all times.

Our School Community:

- discusses, monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy on a regular basis.
- supports staff to promote positive relationships and identify and tackle bullying appropriately. This includes incidents that occur outside the school grounds and outside of school hours that involve our pupils.
- ensures that pupils are aware that all bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that pupils feel safe to learn; and that pupils abide by the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- reports back to parents/carers regarding their concerns on bullying and deals promptly with complaints. Parents/carers in turn work with the school to uphold the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.

This is our school community's shared understanding of what bullying is:

**“the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online.”**

Bullying includes: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking; hitting; taking belongings; inappropriate text messaging, emailing, messaging (cyber bullying); sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

### **Forms of Bullying**

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including:

- bullying related to race, religion or culture
- bullying related to special educational needs
- bullying related to appearance or health conditions
- bullying related to sexual orientation, gender or gender reassignment
- bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances
- sexist or sexual bullying
- cyber bullying

We aim to promote tolerance and inclusion and expect pupils, parents and staff to act in line with the Equality Act 2010. We are committed to preventing and tackling bullying against protected and vulnerable groups.

### **Bullying Outside School**

We are aware that several areas around the school are vulnerable to bullying, including the playing field, the shops or walking to school. The school has an enduring interest in the welfare and conduct of its pupils and will respond positively to any information it receives about bullying outside school, in after school activities, or through use of technology such as the internet or mobile phones outside of school hours.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives Headteachers the power “to such an extent as is reasonable to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site (which is particularly pertinent to regulating cyberbullying)”.

The school will intervene if it hears of Cyberbullying via Social Networking Sites e.g. malicious message on somebody’s or profile, creation of a fake profile, filming on mobile phones and passing on inappropriate material or joining in with this behaviour even if you weren’t the original author.

To help prevent and reduce bullying off-site, the school will:

- talk to the local Community Police Officer about known problems on the streets
- talk to the Headteachers of other schools whose children may be involved in bullying off the premises
- map out safe routes to school for children, linking them to the School Travel Plan
- discuss coping and preventative strategies with parents, such as alternative travel arrangements
- educate pupils about how to handle or avoid bullying outside the school premises, including cyberbullying and e-safety information
- link with local service providers such as transport providers, youth groups etc. to share knowledge and best practice

### **Preventing Bullying: Involvement of Pupils**

We will:

- actively provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils’ social and emotional skills, including their resilience through assemblies, ongoing kindness and anti bullying work and regular circle times/P4C lessons are part of our RSE curriculum.
- consider all opportunities for addressing bullying including through the curriculum, through displays, through peer support, our anti bullying prefects and through the School Council.
- train anti bullying prefects
- actively create “safe spaces” for vulnerable children and young people.
- have books and information about bullying in classrooms and the library.
- encourage good behaviour through incentives such as weekly class recognition boards.
- regularly canvass children and young people’s views on the extent and nature of bullying
- ensure all students are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- publicise the details of helplines and websites.
- involve pupils in kindness projects in school.
- ensure students know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying in a range of ways.
- install the CEOP button on the school network so pupils are able to report any concerns.

### **Preventing Bullying: Involvement of Staff**

We will:

- work with staff and outside agencies to identify all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- train all staff to identify bullying and follow school policy and procedures on bullying.
- review and revisit the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Anti-Bullying Incident Forms regularly to identify and address potential issues.

### **Preventing Bullying: Involvement of Parents/Carers**

We will:

- ensure that parents/carers know whom to contact if they are worried about bullying (contact the school: 01865 761560, class teacher, or Headteacher)
- ensure parents know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively (displayed on the website)
- ensure parents/carers know where to access independent advice about bullying.
- work with parents and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that may give rise to bullying.
- provide parents/carers with information on staying safe on the computer. [www.thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk) (CEOP: Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre)

### **Recognising signs of bullying**

It is important that parents and staff recognise the signs that may tell them if a child or a young person is either being bullied or bullying. These might include:

- signs of stress – being moody, silent or crying, or bullying a younger sibling or friend
- making excuses to miss school, such as stomach complaints or headaches
- seeming upset after using the internet or mobile
- being withdrawn in their behaviour
- having more bruises or scrapes than usual
- change in eating habits
- having torn clothes, school things that are broken or missing, or have 'lost' money
- sleeping badly
- wetting the bed

### **Dealing with Bullying**

Pupils need to:

- tell someone if they are being bullied. This might be any member of staff, parents, carers, friends, School Council, Community Police Officer, Governors. The school will display reminders of who children can talk to and teach the children to name their trusted adults. Mrs V is the Anti Bullying coordinator.
- You can tell someone by speaking to them, writing a note, putting your name in the 'Can I talk to you?' box or asking a grown up to message on dojo.
- try to be confident. Be proud of who you are. It is good to be individual.
- tell yourself that you don't deserve to be bullied. If you know someone is being bullied or in distress, take action; watching and doing nothing can suggest support for the bully.
- try to be assertive, get your friends together and say 'no' to the bully.
- if possible avoid being on your own, stay around your friends or near to an adult. ω
- try to show that you are not upset even though this might be difficult.
- walk away from a difficult situation quickly and confidently.

- don't fight back, go and talk to an adult about how you are feeling.

Staff need to:

- take the incident seriously.
- record the incident using the Behaviour reflection sheet from the class behaviour file.
- deal with the incident fairly and consistently in line with the policy.
- reassure the 'victim' that action will happen and support provided.
- organise for a named person of the affected child's choice to be available for one to one support.
- talk to the children involved to establish what has happened.
- seek to establish witnesses to secure evidence to support the victim's statement.
- explain clearly what behaviours were unacceptable and why.
- give appropriate consequence (following the Behaviour Policy) to the person doing the bullying.
- inform the parents of all children involved.
- inform the HT.
- speak to classes/school where appropriate about the incident.
- monitor recorded incidents on a regular basis (senior leaders).

Support for the child being bullied ('victim'):

- the 'victim' will be informed of the outcome and actions taken following the bullying incident.
- the 'victim' will be given the opportunity to tell the child doing the bullying how they feel (when and if appropriate).
- the 'victim' will be given support to feel safe.
- measures will be put in place to try to prevent the bullying happening again.
- the situation will be reviewed to make sure the bullying has not continued.
- the victim may be given a book to record daily feelings and incidents.
- the victim will be given opportunities to develop friendships and join clubs.

Consequences and follow up for the child doing the bullying:

- they will be told that what they have done is wrong and will be given a punishment in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- their parents will be involved.
- they will listen to how the 'victim' feels.
- they will talk to someone they trust about how they are feeling
- they will be encouraged to develop their hidden talents and skills.
- they will be given opportunities to develop friendships and join clubs.
- they may be referred to outside agencies for further support.

### **Links with other School Policies**

This Policy links with a number of other school policies including the Complaints Policy, Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding policy (particularly the peer on peer abuse and sexual violence and harrasment), Confidentiality Policy

### **Monitoring and Review**

The school regularly monitors levels of bullying through the following measures:

- Follow up after each incident to review effectiveness of response
- Undertaking regular questionnaires and surveys for the whole school community to monitor the extent of bullying in the school and the effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Policy

- Focus groups to gauge the level of understanding of bullying and effectiveness of the policy.
- Systematic recording and review of incident forms to inform policy and procedures

This Policy only works if it ensures that the whole school community understands that bullying is not tolerated and understands the steps that will be taken to both prevent and respond to bullying. All bullying incidents are analysed and reviewed by the Headteacher

Date agreed: December 2023

Headteacher: Rachel Vlachonikolis

Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator: Rachel Vlachonikolis

Date for review: December 2025