



I have come that they may have life and have it to the full
(John10:10)

Appendix to behaviour policy: **BULLYING**

Pending approval December 2024

Bullying:

All members of our school community are expected to show RESPECT at all times.

Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

This includes but is not limited to:

Repeatedly taking advantage of/ praying on/ mocking a child for their additional needs

Repeatedly taking advantage of/ praying on/ mocking a child for skin colour/race/sexuality/family circumstance

We follow the Cheshire East model when deciding whether behaviour/ an incident is to be classed as bullying:

There are three agreed defining features of bullying:

- the victim is targeted by an individual or group on a regular basis
- there is intention to harm or humiliate
- there is a power imbalance, the victim is fearful of those targeting him or her

When all of the above are happening, it is highly likely that this is a bullying situation.

Bullying can take different forms. It could include:

- physical bullying: hitting, slapping or pushing someone
- verbal bullying: name calling, gossiping or threatening someone
- non-verbal abuse: hand signs or text messages
- emotional abuse: threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- exclusion: ignoring or isolating someone
- undermining, constant criticism or spreading rumours

- controlling or manipulating someone
- making silent, hoax or abusive calls

The following types of bullying are also hate crime:

- racial, sexual, transphobic or homophobic bullying
- bullying someone because they have a disability

If the situation is a fallout between friends, but you remain concerned, please discuss with an adult working with your child and ask them to monitor things.

See here for more details: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/staying-safe/community-safety/bullying/bully-free-cheshire-east.aspx>

If a child is deemed to have been bullying another child/group, parents will be asked to attend school for a meeting with a member of SLT. A form detailing the incident/s will be completed by the teacher. Strategies will be put in place and the perpetrator will be supported by the school – seeking external agency support if necessary – to prevent the behaviour re-occurring. We know that perpetrators of bullying also need support and that it is often an indicator that the perpetrator might have been a victim of bullying or abuse.

Strategies may include:

Taking break or lunch with another year group, being supported by a member of staff, attending lunchtime clubs, friendship groups etc. Attendance at such groups will be recorded. For repeated instances, children may be required to stay apart from other children at lunchtime and parents asked to attend a meeting with governors and fixed or permanent exclusions may apply.

The victim of bullying will be supported with friendship groups and where necessary, external advice will be sought (Emotionally Healthy Schools for example).

All individual strategies from external professionals, such as CEAT (Cheshire East Autism Team), the Educational Psychologist and SALT (Speech and language therapy) will be implemented with children with additional needs by the class teacher and keyworkers in liaison with the SENCO.

This should be read in conjunction with our Equality Statement and objectives:

<https://www.christtheking.cheshire.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=357&type=pdf>

Cyber –bullying/ out of school incidents

Central to our School’s anti-bullying policy is the principle that ‘bullying is always unacceptable’ and that ‘all pupils have a right not to be bullied’.

The school recognises that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside school which spills over into the school and so we will respond to any bullying including cyber-bullying that we become aware of carried out by pupils when they are away from the site. Cyber-bullying is defined as “an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.”

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones
- the use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear or humiliation
- posting threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- using e-mail to message others
- hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- making threatening, abusive, defamatory or humiliating remarks in on-line forums

Cyber-bullying may be at a level where it is criminal. If we become aware of any incidents of cyberbullying, we will consider each case individually as to any criminal act that may have been committed. The school will pass on information to the police if it feels that it is appropriate, or we are required to do so.

If bullying of this or any nature happens outside of school, it will be addressed in school in the following way:

- Teaching in PSHE/ Computing lessons/ Safeguarding online
- Friendship groups
- Separating groups/ allowing different lunch breaks.

We will seek to teach the appropriate behaviours.

We will discuss issues with parents on both sides and will share recommendations and guidelines for safe internet practice with home. We will remind parents of the need to ensure age restricted guidance is being adhered to. We will talk to parents about the need to ensure children are accessing appropriate apps. School will get involved if staff deem that it is having/could have repercussions in school. Class teachers will continue to educate children, through the curriculum, about safer internet practices.

Child on child abuse:

Children can abuse other children and this is often referred to as child-on-child abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children (sometimes known as ‘teenage relationship abuse’)
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be stand-alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- ‘Upskirting’ is where someone takes a picture under a person’s clothing (not necessarily a skirt) without their permission and or knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear) to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals

Staff are clear on our procedures with regards to child-on-child abuse and do not take it any less serious than adult to child abuse; they are aware that it should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh” or “part of growing up”.

(for more information read alongside the Child Protection Policy)

Mobile Phones:

Year 5/6 children who walk home alone are permitted to bring phones to school but they MUST be given to the class teacher to be secured. Phones can be confiscated if a child has not handed it in. Children in other classes are not permitted unless agreed with the headteacher for exceptional circumstances.

Reporting

Incidents of bullying will be reported to governors.