

Policy for Anti Bullying



Introduction

This document was reviewed and approved by governing body during the Autumn term 2025

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn term 2026

School Aims

Our Aims:

We want our children to **believe** in themselves, **achieve** and **succeed**

- To ensure all children have access to a broad, balanced and engaging national and locally relevant curriculum that fosters high expectations for all pupils.
- To provide a caring, secure and supportive environment where children can develop respect and belief in themselves, others and their surroundings and feel confident to express their individuality.
- To promote and inspire curiosity, resilience and independence within the children
- To value our community, the richness of other cultures and the world we live in
- To understand and promote the importance of being active and healthy

Statement of Intent

At Prior Park Primary School, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all 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. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a member of staff.

What is bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

<https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school/bullying-a-definition>

It is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault

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- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

Why is it important for school to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying and everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Adults or pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. As a school we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to any issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

The key objectives of this anti-bullying policy are to ensure:

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils, parents and governors will have an understanding of what bullying is;
- All teaching and non-teaching staff and governors will know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported;
- All pupils and parents will know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises;
- That as a school, we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying in any shape or form is not tolerated.

Prevention

The systems in our school encourage appropriate behaviour and this is supported in our Personal Social Health Education (PSHE).

Our school rules are:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe
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These rules are regularly promoted and discussed in assemblies and displayed throughout the school. Through pupils following these rules, and staff reinforcing them, bullying should be significantly reduced.

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential in keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. *Through assemblies, as well as PSHE lessons, pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument.* An annual 'Anti-bullying Week' is held to further raise awareness. E-safety and awareness of cyberbullying is an important part of the Curriculum and information for parents is included in newsletters and on the School's website. Pupils are taught to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that someone is being bullied.

In our school, children are also taught that falling out with their friends, or having a difference of opinion, is not necessarily bullying; we support them to repair their friendships.

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Our children are not permitted to bring mobile phones, electronic devices or Smart watches to school.

Signs of Bullying

Staff should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including:

Physical: unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.

Emotional: losing interest in school, being withdrawn or secretive, unusual shows of temper, refusal to say why unhappy, high level of anxiety, mood swings, tearfulness for no reason, lack of confidence, headaches and stomach aches, signs of depression.

Behavioural: asking to be taken to school, coming home for lunch, taking longer to get home, asking for more money, using different routes to school, 'losing' more items than usual, sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Behaviour Policy

Our Behaviour Policy includes rewards and sanctions which are used consistently, alongside positive relationships, to prevent inappropriate behaviour, and promote positive behaviour.

Responding to Bullying

In this school, pupils will be encouraged to report/discuss any behaviour they are not happy with.

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to the Headteacher or senior member of staff.

Initially the class teacher will try to deal with any incident in a supportive low-key manner to avoid further distress. This may be:

- Face to face talks;
- Taken as a theme in a class PSHE discussion if the bullied child is more at ease with this.
- Talking with our Choices4Growth Counsellor
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In any case of alleged bullying, either the Class teacher, the Headteacher, or a senior member of staff should first establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and pupil witnesses if necessary and appropriate.

If the allegation of bullying is upheld, the Headteacher (or senior leader) should seek to use a restorative approach with the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) together. The perpetrator(s) should fully understand the consequences of their actions on the victim(s), and apologise without reservation. Both parties should be clear that a repeat of these behaviours will not be acceptable.

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All bullying incidents must be recorded. Parents of both parties should be informed. If the situation does not improve, the Headteacher (or senior leader) should meet with the parent(s) of the bullying child(ren) and agree clear expectations and boundaries which would be shared with the pupils involved.

Any further incidents should lead to intervention (e.g. through outside agencies), further monitoring, support and punitive sanctions as deemed necessary. Any necessary action should be taken until the bullying has stopped.

After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

The Role of Governors

The Governing Body supports the Head Teacher and senior management in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The Governing Body will not condone any bullying in school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately. The Governing Body monitors any incidents of bullying that do occur and regularly reviews the effectiveness of this policy. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.



Prior Park Primary School ANTI-BULLYING PROTOCOL

