



Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved On/By:

Last Reviewed On:

Next Review Due By:

Monitoring & Review:

Staff Member(S) Responsible:

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Annually

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1. Introduction

The aim of this policy is to provide a clear definition of bullying; how it can be reported; how it will be dealt with; how victims of bullying will be supported and bullies helped to stop their bullying behaviour.

2. Statement

- Our Care Brand provides the focus for mutual, care, respect and excellence throughout our school community
- All pupils are taught to uphold British Values:
 - The rule of law - Individual liberty
 - Mutual respect
 - Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs
- We believe that bullying is never acceptable and we do not tolerate it at Hodge Hill College
- We promote a culture of 'Telling someone you trust' to ensure pupils feel that they can report bullying to any adult in school and it will be taken seriously and dealt with

3. Definition of bullying

3.1. Bullying is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at particular groups, e.g. because of body shape, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

3.2. Bullying can take many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats or spreading rumours
- name calling
- cyberbullying
- ostracising someone from a group

3.3. When a person's or group of people's behaviour, over a period of time, leaves someone feeling one or more of the following:

- Physically and/or mentally hurt or worried
- Unsafe and/or frightened
- Unable to do well and achieve
- Badly different", alone, unimportant and/or undervalued
- Unable to see a happy future for themselves
- Anxious in social situations
- Lacking in confidence

It could be bullying, when a person, or group of people, has been made aware of the effects of their behaviour on another person, and they continue to behave in the same manner or join in with people who have previously been bullying someone.

4. Forms of bullying covered by this policy

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 special health conditions
- Bullying related to sexual orientation
- Bullying of looked after children or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Sexist or sexual bullying
- Cyber bullying

5. Identifying and reporting concerns about bullying

All concerns about bullying will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.

All pupils will be encouraged to report bullying by “Telling someone they Trust”. This involves:

- Talking to a member of staff of their choice
- Talking to senior pupils in the school such as Pupil Leaders
- Contacting local or national support agencies if they feel more comfortable doing so

Pupils who are aware of bullying (“bystanders”) can be a powerful force, and pupils at Hodge Hill are encouraged to report incidents of bullying in a safe way.

Pupils who have leadership roles in school, such as Pupil Leaders, will be expected to support staff by being vigilant to any bullying and by being prepared to pass on information to a trusted adult.

Parents are encouraged to report concerns about bullying, and to support the school in tackling it. It is often the case that when parents try to resolve bullying directly with pupils or their families, this can lead to problems escalating.

6. Responding to reports about bullying

6.1. School

The school will take the following considerations into account when dealing with concerns about bullying:

- Staff should always remain calm
- Staff will always take the incident or report seriously
- Staff should take action as quickly as possible
- Staff will think carefully about whether their action needs to be private or public taking into account the individual pupils involved
- A clear account of the concern should be recorded and handed to the appropriate Achievement Coordinator or Assistant Achievement Coordinator
- Where necessary, pastoral/senior staff will interview those involved to build up a detailed picture of what has occurred
- Tutors who have daily contact with a student have a key role to play in making sure that every student is safe in school and will be trained in how to support anyone experiencing bullying
- Consequences implemented for those involved in bullying behaviours will be used as appropriate. Such sanctions may include; detentions, reflection time, structured breaks, fixed term suspensions and permanent exclusion.
- Once the incident is resolved the matter will be closed and not “held” against anyone.

6.2. Pupils who have bullied others will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened

- Discovering why the pupil became involved
- Establishing the behaviours that are deemed to be bullying, and explaining the need to change
- Discussions regarding the impact of such behaviours on others
- Informing parents to help change the attitude of the pupil
- The use of specialist interventions and/or referrals to other agencies where appropriate
- The use of restorative conversations or mediation if deemed appropriate

7. Preventative Measures

The school will:

- Raise awareness of the nature of bullying through work during form-time activities, assemblies and in subject areas (e.g. drama) in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour
- Participate in national activities such as Anti-Bullying Week and make this high profile around the school
- Seek to develop links with the wider community so we are better able to address issues regarding bullying that may arise
- Use specific strategies such as year group pupil voice, peer mentoring, and Pupil Leaders to ensure pupils have a major input into modifying the behaviour of other pupils

8. Promotion of this policy

The policy and methods for reporting bullying concerns will be promoted throughout the school. Each classroom and every pupil passport will display our charter on bullying and all pupils will be made aware of the “Tell Someone You Trust” system they can use to report bullying.

Prominent boards will display the avatars and names of key people across the school site.

There will be regular awareness-raising of this policy with staff, pupils and parents.

9. Key people:

- Form tutors as first point of contact each day
- Pastoral staff
- Class teachers
- Teaching assistants
- Senior Leadership Team

10. Monitoring of this policy

We will review this policy as required by the DFE guidelines and update as required.