



## **Woburn Lower School**

### **Anti-bullying Policy**

#### **Aim:**

At Woburn Lower School we are committed to working with children, staff, governors and parents/carers to create a caring, friendly and safe school community where bullying is not tolerated. We are committed to implementing strategies to prevent bullying and to deal with it, should it occur. We aim to promote understanding of the needs of victims and of the perpetrators of bullying. This policy applies equally to pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors. If bullying does occur, all pupils, staff and visitors should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

#### **Definition:**

We define bullying as 'Behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time, where an imbalance of power is used to intentionally hurt another either physically or emotionally.'

#### **Methods of bullying can be:**

Physical – kicking, punching, spitting, any form of physical assault, damaging belongings, taking someone else's property, or making people do something they don't want to do

Verbal – name calling, mocking, taunting, spreading rumours, blackmail and threats

Indirect / Emotional – being unfriendly, exclusion, tormenting (e.g. hiding books), using threatening gestures / looks, making someone feel scared or uncomfortable

Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, name calling

Sexual – unwanted physical contact, comments of an unwelcome sexual nature, sexual assault, abusive images, focus on gender or sexual orientation

Cyber – harassment, alarm, distress or humiliation caused by use of internet and telephone technology e.g. texts, emails, websites

Disablist – bullying of children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities

### **Possible indicators of bullying include:**

We recognise that the following behaviours may suggest someone is being bullied. However we also recognise that the list is not exhaustive.

Disturbed sleep  
Bed-wetting  
Head and stomach aches  
Problems with concentration,  
Changes in behaviour and attitude  
Truancing, not wanting to come into school  
Bullying other children  
Damaged or missing clothes / money / property,  
Asking for more money than usual or stealing money  
Eating disorders  
Self-harm or, even for extreme cases, potential suicide

We ask families to share any concerns with us as part of our duty of care for their child and we will share our concerns with them to support all our community as effectively as possible.

This may mean that we as a school may need to help a child become aware of the impact of their behaviour/ attitudes or language on others and work with them over time to change.

### **Bullying outside the school premises:**

We take seriously issues from outside school which impact negatively on our pupils when they are in school and will work in partnership with families and other agencies where appropriate.

### **Preventing and changing attitudes to bullying:**

We aim to prevent bullying by:

- Using the curriculum, particularly PSHE to raise awareness of issues and of the school's expectations and teach students the skills and values which will enable them to become positive citizens
- Participating in 'anti-bullying' initiatives
- Adhering to the school's behaviour policy
- Giving support to children who are bullied, as well as support and guidance to bullies to help them change and make amends
- Ensuring adequate supervision of children
- Using a system of playtime buddies
- Ensuring children can access the school's pastoral lead teacher
- Involving parents in the prevention and responses to bullying
- Pupil voice

### **Investigating and dealing with allegations of bullying:**

- All reported incidences of alleged bullying will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated and monitored
- Bullying incidents will be reported to school Governors on a termly basis
- The child who is bullying will be supported to recognise and reflect on their behaviour and its' effect, how to make amends for their actions and how to change their behaviour. They will have full access to the school pastoral support teacher. Sanctions may be applied and parents will be informed. Outside agencies will be involved if necessary
- The victim will be supported with strategies for how to deal with unwanted behaviours and will have the full support of the school pastoral support teacher. Parents will be informed. Outside agencies will be involved if necessary.

**Related policies:**

Behaviour

Peer-on-peer abuse (changes to child-on-child abuse September 2022)

PSHE

SMSC

Relationships and Health

Values

**Governor:**

**Date: February 2020**

**Headteacher:**

**Date: February 2023**

**Review date: February 2026**