Pegswood Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy March 2019

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Approved by Governors: _____

Date: 14 Mar 19

Headteacher: _____

Date: 14/3/19

Review Date: March 2020

Pegswood Primary School

Anti-Bullying

We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

- Children Act 1989
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011
- Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Action on Bullying (Estyn 2014)
- Bullying: Effective Action in Secondary Schools (Ofsted)
- Cyberbullying: Supporting School Staff (DCSF)
- No Place for Bullying (Ofsted 2012)
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying - Advice for School Leaders, Staff and Governing Bodies (DfE)
- Safe from Bullying: Guidance for Local Authorities and Other Strategic Leaders on Reducing Bullying in the Community (DCSF)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE)
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools: Departmental Advice (DfE 2014)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children
- Behaviour and Discipline in Schools Guidance (DfE)
- Counselling in schools a blueprint for the future: advice for school leaders and counsellors (DfE)
- Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)
- Race Disparity Audit - Summary Findings from the Ethnicity Facts and Figures Website (Cabinet Office)

We believe 'bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences'. (DfE)

We have a duty of care to protect pupils from bullying as part of our responsibility to provide a safe, secure, caring and friendly school environment for all the children in order to protect them from those who wish to deliberately hurt them either physically or emotionally. We

believe all our safeguarding procedures are in line with current legislation and advice and that we promote the welfare of all children in our care.

We are aware that bullying is not a criminal offence but we will report to the police any incident of violence or assault, theft of school equipment or personal belongings, repeated incidents of harassment or victimisation or hate crimes.

We work hard to eliminate all forms of bullying, to keep records of all incidents of bullying and the different types of bullying that occur in this school.

We acknowledge that if bullying is left unaddressed it 'can have a devastating effect on individuals. It can be a barrier to their learning and have serious consequences for their mental health' not only in childhood but also into adulthood.

We are aware that bullying can cause anxiety, depression, hyperactivity and behavioural problems but the results from recent research that anxiety and depression caused by childhood bullying decreases over a period of time. Bullying does cause suffering but the impact on mental health decreases over time, so that children are able to recover in the medium term. Research results also show the potential for resilience in children exposed to bullying.

We work hard to prevent bullying from happening and to support children who have been bullied by having in place resilience processes in order to help their recovery. We will provide counselling, engage with parents, if necessary refer to the local authority's children's services or complete a Common Assessment Framework or refer to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. All support will be reviewed and improved if necessary. It is very important to work with parents and to keep them well informed at all stages.

We believe it is our moral and legal duty to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. pupils and school personnel from all forms of bullying and to educate all pupils about the important role that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people play in society. All forms of homophobic and transphobic bullying must be challenged, dealt with and recorded.

We believe by creating a safe, secure and caring school environment we will encourage all pupils to report any incident of bullying to a member of the school personnel.

We are aware that under Sections 90 and 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that we have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving off the school premises such as on school or public transport, outside local shops or in a town or village centre. All reported incidents of bullying outside school will be investigated and acted on.

Under no circumstances will we tolerate any form of bullying and all incidents of bullying will be dealt with promptly and effectively as we wish to promote the wellbeing of all pupils.

We work hard to demonstrate the effectiveness of this policy by ensuring all incidents of bullying are investigated, are dealt with and the outcome of each incident.

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We wish to endorse the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by having in place an effective Anti-Bullying Policy that demonstrates good practice in order to prevent bullying among pupils.

We believe we can achieve this by ensuring strategies are regularly reviewed; by creating a safe, secure and caring school environment; by involving pupils, parents and governors; by teaching anti-bullying through the curriculum; by organising anti-bullying events; by effectively training school personnel; by working with the local community; by dealing with all reported cases of bullying; by having in place an effective reporting system; by celebrating effective preventative strategies; and by ensuring all school personnel are aware of this policy and use it as a working document referred to when dealing with incidents of bullying.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We all have a responsibility to ensure equality permeates in to all aspects of school life and that everyone is treated equally irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. We want everyone connected with this school to feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth.

We acknowledge the findings of the Race Disparity Audit that clearly shows how people of different ethnicities are treated across the public services of health, education, employment and the criminal justice system.

The educational section of the audit that covers: differences by region; attainment and economic disadvantage; exclusions and abuse; and destinations, has a significant importance for the strategic planning of this school.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

Aims & Objectives

- To protect pupils from bullying as part of our responsibility to provide a safe, secure, caring and friendly school environment for all children.
- To look out for all signs of bullying and to take the appropriate action to stop it.
- To develop a school environment that is both safe and secure for all pupils.
- To have in place established systems that will deal with incidents of bullying.
- To develop confident children who will notify staff of any incident of bullying.
- To inform everyone connected with the school of the school's anti-bullying policy.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body will not condone any bullying and has:

- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for promoting positive pupil behaviour;
- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for Pastoral Care;
- appointed specially trained members of staff to be responsible for counselling pupils;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to eliminate all forms of bullying, to keep records of all incidents of bullying and the different types of bullying;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- under Section 157 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 encourage good behaviour, the respect for others and endeavour to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils;
- work in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- implement this policy;
- work to create a safe, secure, caring and friendly school environment for all children;
- ensure risk assessments are:

  ☐ in place and cover all aspects of this policy;
  ☐ accurate and suitable;
  ☐ reviewed annually;
  ☐ easily available for all school personnel.

- ensure school personnel have a clear understanding of the extent and nature of bullying that may take place in school;
- work hard with school personnel to create an ethos of good behaviour;
- encourage school personnel to 'proactively gather intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and develop strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place';
- ensure that personal and social education curriculum and the religious education curriculum helps to deal with anti-bullying;
- investigate all reported incidents of bullying;
- ensure that all pupils understand that bullying is wrong;
- ensure that all parents aware of this policy and that we do not tolerate bullying;

- raise awareness of bullying with pupils, parents, school personnel and governors on the grounds of protected characteristics;
- consult with pupils and parents to identify the extent and nature of bullying in the school;
- inform parents of any incident of bullying and how it has been dealt with;
- ensure school personnel report and record incidents of bullying;
- ensure records of all incidents of bullying are:

  - ☐ stored in a secure place;
  - ☐ kept for a specific period of time;
  - ☐ kept in a central log in order to build up a picture of concerns of individual pupils and in identifying patterns of behaviour;
  - ☐ kept in a uniform and systematic way
  - ☐ kept as well as specific types of bullying and their outcomes;
  - ☐ are categorised according to the protected characteristics which gives a clear picture of patterns of behaviour over each term / academic year;
  - ☐ used to effectively track pupils through school;

- ensure counselling and support mechanisms are in place to help those who have been bullied;
- ensure all perpetrators of bullying are given time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong;
- support any pupil who has been bullied;
- encourage any bully to change their behaviour;
- impose sanctions on any pupil who continues to bully;
- consider permanent exclusion in the most serious incidents of bullying;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- work closely with external agencies to support pupils who experience bullying;
- work with anti-bullying organisations when dealing with certain forms of bullying;
- ensure effective supervision is in place between lessons, break times and lunchtimes;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring:

  - ☐ the number of recorded incidents in an academic year;
  - ☐ the types of bullying that occur in an academic year;
  - ☐ how swiftly incidents of bullying are dealt with

- report termly the number of incidents of bullying and the outcomes to the Governing Body;

Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with this policy;
- be aware of all other linked policies;
- be aware of the signs of bullying in order to prevent bullying taking place;
- report all incidents of bullying;

- investigate all reported incidents of bullying;
- take all forms of bullying seriously;
- make sure that all pupils know what to do if they are bullied;
- encourage pupils to report any incidents of bullying to any member of the school personnel;
- support any pupil who has been bullied;
- raise awareness of the wrongs of bullying through personal and social education, Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and religious education;
- use preventative strategies such as circle time and buddy systems;
- undertake the appropriate training;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

Role of Pupils

Pupils must:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- report if they are being bullied;
- report if they see someone being bullied;
- discuss ways of preventing bullying through the school council;
- follow the following instructions if they are bullied:

  ☐ get away from the situation as quickly as you can
  ☐ report what happened to you to one of the school personnel by telling them:

    - what has happened to you
    - how you feel
    - if you have been bullied before
    - who bullied you
    - where the incident happened
    - when it happened

  ☐ make sure that your report is dealt with and who you told
  ☐ tell your parents or another family member
  ☐ ask for counselling if you are really upset

- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- talk to others without shouting and will use language which is neither abusive nor offensive;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys.

Role of Parents

Parents must:

- be aware of and support this policy;
- report to the school any concerns they have of their child being bullied;
- be assured that the school will deal with all incidents of bullying;
- be assured that they will be informed of incidents and will be involved in discussions;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school.

Training for School Personnel

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on this policy on induction which specifically covers:

  - ☐ What is bullying?
  - ☐ How to identify, prevent and manage bullying.
  - ☐ Types of bullying such as Cyberbullying, bullying, bullying of children with special educational needs, homophobic bullying and bullying around race, religion and culture.
  - ☐ Recognising bullying.
  - ☐ Anti-bullying strategies.
  - ☐ How to deal with a bullying incident.
  - ☐ Counselling the bullied and the bullies.
  - ☐ Anti-bullying week.
  - ☐ Tackling Homophobia
  - ☐ Building pupils resilience to bullying.
  - ☐ Working and co-operating with parents and carers

- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information;
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- School website;
- Meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops;
- School events;
- Meetings with school personnel;
- Headteacher reports to the Governing Body;

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the coordinator, the Headteacher and the nominated governor.

A statement of the policy's effectiveness and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be presented to the Governing Body for further discussion and endorsement.

Linked Policies

- Acceptable Internet Use Agreement
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
- Pupil Behaviour and Discipline
- Safeguarding and Child Protection