



Springwell  
Leeds

# Anti-Bullying Policy

October 2017



## **Springwell Leeds Academy Anti-Bullying Policy**

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Child Protection Policy
- Safer Working Practice Guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance
- Behaviour Policy
- SEN Policy

### **Introduction**

This policy relates 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

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)

We acknowledge the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that clearly states that all maintained schools must have in place an Anti-Bullying Policy that outlines procedures in order to prevent bullying among pupils.

We have a duty of care to protect pupils from bullying as part of our responsibility to provide a safe, secure, caring and friendly Academy 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 Sections 3(5) and 87(1) of the Children Act 1989 and Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and that we promote the welfare of all children in our care.

### **Definition of Bullying:**

There are many definitions of bullying, but most consider it to be actions that are:

- deliberately hurtful (including aggression);
- repeated often over a period of time, while recognising that even a one-off incident can leave a learner traumatised and nervous of future recurrence; and
- difficult for victims to defend themselves against.

(Respecting Others: Anti-Bullying Overview (Welsh Government 2011)

We believe bullying takes many forms such as physical, verbal, social exclusion and the misuse of mobile phones and Internet social networking websites. It is our duty to look out for all signs of bullying and to take the appropriate action to stop it.

We will deal with all incidents of alleged bullying.

We believe it is our moral and legal duty to protect transgender pupils and school personnel from all forms of transphobic bullying and to educate all pupils about the important role that 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 Academy environment we will encourage all pupils to report any incident of bullying to a member of the Academy personnel.

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 wish to work closely with the Student Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as an Academy 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 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 Academy environment for all children.
- To look out for all signs of bullying and to take the appropriate action to stop it.
- To develop an Academy 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 Academy of the school's anti-bullying policy.
- To work with other schools 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:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Executive Principal 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 Executive Principal to ensure all Academy personnel and visitors to the Academy are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the Academy 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 ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving the Student Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- worked with the Student Council, Academy personnel and parents to agree a definition of bullying;
- nominated a link governor to visit the Academy regularly, to liaise with the Executive Principal and the coordinator and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

### **Role of the Executive Principal**

Under Section 157 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the Executive Principal has a duty to encourage good behaviour, the respect for others and to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils.

Therefore, the Executive Principal will:

- implement this policy;
- ensure that all Academy personnel are aware of the policy;
- work to create a safe, secure, caring and friendly Academy environment for all the children;
- ensure Academy personnel have a clear understanding of the extent and nature of bullying that may take place in the Academy;
- ensure that the 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 are aware of this policy and that we do not tolerate bullying;
- raise awareness of bullying with pupils, parents, Academy personnel and governors on the grounds of protected characteristics;
- consult with pupils and parents to identify the extent and nature of bullying in the Academy;
- inform parents of any incident of bullying and how it has been dealt with;
- ensure Academy personnel report and record incidents of bullying;
- keep records of all incidents of bullying;
- use records of incidents effectively to track pupils;
- keep records in a central log in order to build up a picture of concerns of individual pupils and in identifying patterns of behaviour;
- discuss with the student council;

- A definition for bullying.
  - Are pupils aware of this policy?
  - How can bullying be effectively dealt with?
  - How good are staff in dealing with incidents of bullying?
  - How good are staff in identifying the symptoms of bullying amongst pupils?
- support any pupil who has been bullied;
  - encourage any bully to change their behaviour;
  - ensure that there are logical consequences for any pupil who continues to bully;
  - make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
  - work closely with external agencies to support pupils who experience bullying;
  - ensure effective supervision is in place between lessons, break times and lunchtimes;
  - work with parents, carers, families and the wider community to deal with bullying that takes place outside the Academy;
  - deal with any form of bullying that takes place to and from the Academy;
  - proactively work with the police, parents/carers and the local community to help reduce local tensions;
  - work closely with the governors;
  - 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 incidents of bullying are dealt with
  - report termly the number of incidents of bullying;
  - annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

## **Role of the Associate Principals**

Associate Principals will:

- lead the development of this policy and all linked policies throughout their setting;
- work closely with the Executive Principal and governors;
  - provide guidance and support to all staff personnel to understand the signs or behaviour of someone being bullied;
- work with children to determine those parts of the Academy where they do not feel safe;
- have in place good systems at break times and lunchtime to reduce the risk of bullying such as:
  - high levels of supervision
  - structured and directed activities
  - peer mentors
  - safe places for vulnerable students
- organize anti-bullying activities such as anti-bullying week;
- plan age-appropriate opportunities in the curriculum to discuss issues related to the protected characteristics;
- build pupils' resilience to bullying;

- develop opportunities in the curriculum for children to discuss equality and diversity;
- ensure high quality transition, admission and orientation arrangements for arrival of students from other settings into the Academy
- ensure good arrangements are in place for pupils transferring from the primary to the secondary phase within the Academy and across sites;
- work closely with external agencies to support pupils who experience bullying;
- collaboratively work with other schools and academies to identify common issues related to the protected characteristics;
- display posters of national and local help lines and where help is available in the Academy;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- help counsel children who have been bullied and those who use bullying behaviour;
- review and monitor;
- report to the Governing Body on the success of this policy as required

## **Role of Academy Personnel**

Academy 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 staff;
- support any pupil who has been bullied;
- raise awareness of the wrongs of bullying through personal and social education and religious education;
- plan and preventative strategies such as circle time and buddy systems;
- undertake the appropriate training;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the Academy 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 Student 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 a member of staff 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's behaviour guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Academy;
  - liaise with the Student council;
  - take part in questionnaires and surveys.

### **Role of the Student Council**

The Student Council will be involved in:

- determining this policy with the Governing Body;
- agreeing a definition for bullying with parents, staff and the Governing Body;
- discussing improvements to this policy during the year;
- organising surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy with the Governing Body

### **Role of Parents**

Parents must:

- be aware of and support this policy;
- be involved in agreeing a definition for bullying with pupils, staff and the Governing Body;
- report to the Academy any concerns they have of their child being bullied;
- be assured that the Academy 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;

### **Training for Academy Personnel**

All Academy 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

## **Records**

- Records will be kept in a uniform and systematic way.
- All reported incidents of bullying are investigated, dealt with and recorded.
- Records will be kept of all incidents as well as specific types of bullying and their outcomes.
- All incidents are categorised according to the protected characteristics which gives a clear picture of patterns of behaviour over each term / academic year.
- Records of incidents will be used to effectively track pupils throughout the Academy;
- Records will be kept in a central log in order to build up a picture of concerns of individual pupils and in identifying patterns of behaviour;
- Parents are informed of all events and what actions have been taken.

## **Counselling**

- Counselling and support mechanisms are in place to help those who have been bullied.
- All perpetrators of bullying are given time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong.

## **Raising Awareness of this Policy**

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the Academy Handbook/Prospectus
- the Academy website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- Academy events
- meetings with staff
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and end of half term newsletters
- reports such as annual report to parents and Executive Principal reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

## **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 Academy.

## **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 Executive Principal.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Definition of Bullying:**

#### **DFE website 2015 states that:**

“There is no legal definition of bullying.

However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:

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

It takes many forms and can include:

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

Your school should have its own definition of bullying.

#### **Springwell Leeds Academy: Definition of Bullying.**

Bullying, as described in this policy shall be considered to be any or all activities and actions that meet the description below. This definition draws upon a range of suggested definitions including those from the DFE and NSPCC.

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Bullying that happens online, using social networks and mobile phones, is often called cyberbullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night.

Bullying includes:

- verbal abuse, such as name calling and gossiping
- non-verbal abuse, such as hand signs or text messages
- emotional abuse, such as threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- exclusion, such as ignoring or isolating someone
- undermining, by constant criticism or spreading rumours
- controlling or manipulating someone
- sexist, racial, sexual, homophobic, transgender bullying
- physical assaults, such as hitting and pushing

- making silent, hoax or abusive calls
- Online or cyberbullying.

Bullying can also be considered to have happened if any of the above actions are threatened.

### **Online Bullying or Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is bullying by different means and will be treated as bullying by the Academy.

Cyberbullying is an increasingly common form of bullying behaviour which usually, but not exclusively happens on social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat or via text messaging.

Cyberbullying can include spreading rumours about someone, or posting nasty or embarrassing messages, images or videos.

Children may know who's bullying them online – it may be an extension of offline peer bullying - or they may be targeted by someone using a fake or anonymous account. It's easy to be anonymous online and this may increase the likelihood of engaging in bullying behaviour.

Cyberbullying can happen at any time or anywhere - a child can be bullied when they are alone in their bedroom - so it can feel like there's no escape.

Cyberbullying may include:

- sending threatening or abusive messages via text / messaging services
- creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos
- 'trolling' - the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
- excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- encouraging young people to self-harm
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name
- sending explicit messages, also known as sexting
- pressuring children into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual conversations.

## **About this policy**

**Written by:** **S. Jacques**

**Date:** **1/10/17**

**Presented to Governors** **December 2017**

**Ratified by Governors** **YET TO BE RATIFIED**

**To be Reviewed by** **1/10/18**