

Halifax Primary School



Anti-Bullying and Prejudice Related Incident Policy

Purpose	The purpose of Halifax Primary's Bullying and Prejudice Related Incidents policy is to provide a secure framework for the school promoting equality and dealing with incidents of bullying and prejudice
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Governors• Staff• Pupils & Parents
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding Policy• Behaviour Policy• Equality Statement
Policy Approved by:	Chair of Governors – Lisa Elmer
Date of approval:	July 2023
Future Policy Review	July 2025

Aims of the Policy

- To work towards ensuring an environment where all children feel safe, happy and secure in school.
- To ensure that all pupils, staff, parents and governors have an understanding of what bullying and prejudice mean and their impact on the victim's emotional well-being.
- To ensure that all pupils, staff and parents have guidance and strategies to deal with and resolve bullying and prejudice related incidents when they occur.
- To eliminate racism and sexism in our school.
- To encourage children to behave in a responsible manner toward each other, taking responsibility for their own behaviour in accordance with our behaviour policy.
- To ensure that the curriculum teaches why bullying/prejudice is unacceptable and how it can be dealt with.

Underlying Principles

Each bullying/prejudice related incident holds unique and distinctive features, which need to be considered; schools' responses should be informed by the principles below. These principles need to be adopted if schools are to challenge and counter bullying/prejudice related incidents and ensure the wellbeing and achievement of all children and young people within the school community.

- All pupils are entitled to an education, which respects and values their identity, individuality and background and is free from prejudice, bullying, harassment and adverse discrimination.
- Bullying could prevent children from learning and be a significant barrier to their achievement.
- Bullying impacts on a child's social and emotional wellbeing.
- Strategies for dealing with discrimination need to be linked to the school's behaviour policy.
- All staff, children, parents, carers and governors should be aware of the school's policy and procedures for dealing with prejudice related incidents/bullying.
- All allegations of bullying/prejudice related bullying should be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.
- Schools should keep parents, carers and children informed during an investigation and advise them of any action that is taken.
- Schools will be open and honest in their dealings with pupils, parents, carers and members of local communities about prejudice related incidents and will value their help and support in tackling these issues.

Definition of Bullying

We consider that bullying, a form of child on child abuse, is **repeated, deliberate** behaviour that makes another person feel threatened, distressed, hurt or upset. We use the acronym **STOP (Several Times On Purpose)** to highlight the difference between bullying and other forms of poor behaviour. Occasionally the distress caused may not be consciously intended by the perpetrator, this will depend upon the perpetrator's age and/ or ability to understand the consequences of their behaviour.

Definition of Prejudice Related Incidents

A **racist incident** is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.

A **disability related incident** is any incident which is perceived to be so by the victim or any other person.

A **homophobic related incident** is any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person. Furthermore, the victim does not have to be lesbian, gay or bisexual to experience homophobic bullying, but may be targeted because they are perceived to be gay, or because a member of their family is gay, for example.

A **sexist related incident** affects both genders. Boys may be victims as well as girls, and both sexes may be victims of their own gender. Sexual bullying may be characterised by:

- name-calling, comments
- overt 'looks' about appearance
- attractiveness and emerging puberty
- uninvited touching
- innuendos and propositions
- pornographic imagery or graffiti

Forms of Bullying and Prejudice Related Incidents

Verbal (Name-Calling, Taunting, Mocking) - This covers name-calling, insults, threats and prejudice related 'jokes'; and incitement of others to behave in a prejudiced way. It also includes ridicule of a person's appearance, speech/accents, special educational needs, background, religion, culture; the regular use, consciously or unconsciously of offensive and discriminatory language. An example of this would be the 'casual' use of homophobic language such as the use of gay to mean stupid. Staff will challenge all such derogatory language.

Written - This includes offensive writing, drawings, emails and text messages as well as items posted on the web, including social networking sites.

Graffiti - This includes offensive writing and drawings in public places and anywhere in the school such as walls, desks, and toilets.

Physical - This includes a range of violent actions involving hitting, kicking, and the use of weapons, pushing, shoving or tripping someone.

Intimidation/coercion - This includes making fun of children and adults, offensive gestures, mimicry, intimidating body language and obstruction, for example when entering a school classroom or within the school environment, as well as making someone do or say something against their will.

Extortion - Extortion specifically relates to forcing someone to give up something they own, or have in their custody, such as money, personal possessions or school property.

Personal possessions taken or damaged - This includes deliberately damaging or breaking a person's property, spoiling or destroying a piece of work, hiding a pupil's personal property or the school's property that is in the possession of or being used by the victim.

Isolation, being ignored or left out - This includes a refusal to sit next to or work with another child, for example, in working groups, lunchtime queues, and playground activities.

Spreading rumours - The spreading of rumours and/or malicious gossip, particularly with the intention of causing hurt to those named in the rumours.

Cyber (Email, Internet, text) - Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. As such, technology is often the vehicle for the bullying, and therefore spreading rumours, for example, may be done via the internet, and would therefore be both 'Spreading rumours' and 'Cyber.'

Other prejudice related incidents - This includes the wearing of specific badges, T-shirts carrying slogans or bringing discriminatory literature into school; attempting to recruit others to organisations and groups that promote any form of prejudice.

Normal Peer Conflict or Bullying?

The harm caused by bullying/prejudice should not be underestimated. It can cause considerable stress to children, to the extent that it affects their health and development.

Normal Peer Conflict or Bullying?	
Normal Peer Conflict	Bullying
Equal power or friends.	Imbalance of power – not friends.
Happens occasionally.	Repeated unwelcome actions.
Accidental or not pre-meditated harm.	Deliberate harm or the threat of physical or emotional harm.

Not seeking power or attention.	Seeking power, control of material things.
Generally, not trying to get something.	May attempt to get material things or power.
Remorse – will take responsibility.	No remorse – may blame the victim.

Action we can take to prevent bullying/prejudice related incidents

It is important that we create an atmosphere in school where victims of bullying/prejudice feel able to tell an adult what is happening; put their side of the argument; and know that they will be listened to and heeded. Also children accused of bullying/prejudice behaviour should feel able to tell their side of the story and be listened to.

How this can be achieved:

- Raise the awareness of what bullying and prejudice are through direct teaching – PSHE and incidental discussions, including assemblies.
All members of the school community creating a caring, calm, ordered and friendly atmosphere in school.
- Parents are informed of incidents of bullying/prejudice by the child's class teacher and offered advice on how to support their child, be they victim or perpetrator.
- Children feel valued, by means of teaching through the curriculum and displays; recognition of achievement; rewards and celebrating varied heritages.
- Ensure that consistent behaviour management and high quality activities are available at playtimes and lunchtimes.
- All members of the school community follow policy and are consistent when handling incidents.
- Canvass pupils' views on the extent and nature of bullying.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- refuses to go outside at break times or refuses to stay at school for school dinners
- requests to change classes or school
- behaves immaturely, i.e. the child reverts to a previous behaviour such as thumb-sucking
- becomes withdrawn, clingy, moody, uncooperative or non-communicative
- finds it difficult to concentrate or school performance deteriorates
- is frightened of walking to or from school

- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine – time leaving or route taken to/from school
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins truanting
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- self-harms (e.g. scratches themselves)
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions “go missing”
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone ➤ is nervous or jumpy when a text or email is received ➤ gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

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

Responding to Bullying or Prejudice Related Incidents

All bullying and prejudiced behaviour should be treated as a serious matter. It is crucially important that the member of staff who first encounters the incident shows firm disapproval and takes positive action to deal with the situation. A failure to respond could be seen as condoning bullying or prejudiced behaviour and could discourage pupils and parents / carers from reporting incidents and sharing their concerns with staff.

Prompt, appropriate and consistent responses from all members of staff can encourage pupils who might otherwise suffer in silence to report incidents and share their concerns and worries. In dealing with the perpetrators of prejudice related bullying or other discriminatory incidents, **it is important that it is the behaviour that is disapproved of and not the pupils themselves.**

Effective action could include:

- drawing the perpetrator to one side and explaining clearly and calmly why the behaviour was wrong and hurtful or offensive;
- seeking an assurance that the pupil understands why the behaviour was wrong and that it will not be repeated;
- correcting any misinformation that was used as part of the prejudice related behaviour;
- where an assurance is forthcoming, asking the pupil to apologise for his or her action, where possible mediate between the children or young people;
- investigating the background or particular circumstances which led up to the incident – witnesses should be sought to verify the account;
- referring the matter, where appropriate, to a senior member of staff for disciplinary action;
- arranging a meeting or informing the parents / carers in order to make it clear to them that such behaviour is unacceptable and that further disciplinary action will be taken if there is any repetition (if such behaviour appears to be condoned or encouraged by the parents, staff should refer the parents to the Headteacher) in appropriate cases, considering the use of positive strategies other than sanctions and punishment that might help and encourage the pupil to overcome his or her prejudices and to desist from engaging in similar behaviour in the future;
- checking the recording and reporting data to see if the pupil has been involved in any earlier incidents. If this is the case, a senior member of staff should meet with the parents / carers of the perpetrator. The meeting should enlist the support of these parents and carers to stop such behaviour and to stress that a similar incident in the future could have serious consequences for the child. In some cases, this could lead to a fixed-term or permanent exclusion and possible action by the police if the aggrieved victim took action against the perpetrator.
- Safe to Learn: Homophobic Bullying, (DCSF-00668-2007) contains detailed, step-by-step approaches for dealing with homophobic incidents, including scripted responses for how to support a pupil who has been the victim of homophobic bullying as well as ideas for how to address homophobic bullying at Key Stage 1, 2, 3, 4 and 16+.

Recording and Reporting Procedures

Members of school staff may not be sure when they should record an incident as prejudice related following remarks made by children related to ethnicity, culture, religion, disability or homophobia. The following questions may be helpful to assist this decision.

If the answer to any of the following 3 questions is 'Yes' then the incident should be recorded:

- was anyone offended/hurt/upset by the remark?
- would a representative of the community concerned have been offended? (If in doubt record)
- was the way the remark was formulated or delivered derogatory, mocking or negative about the group or individual or character concerned? (If in doubt record)

Every incident that is perceived to be based on prejudice should be reported and recorded, however minor it may appear at the time.

- All bullying or prejudice related incidents (listed under behaviour) must be recorded on CPOMs.
- The Headteacher / behaviour lead will be responsible for overseeing the reporting procedure and monitoring the incidence of prejudice related incidents on a regular basis.
- The information provided by these records will be reported annually to governors by the Headteacher and provide data to enable the school to decide on actions to improve.

The completion of a CPOMs report will be undertaken by teachers and teaching assistants. Other members of staff should report incidents to the class teacher or a member of senior staff for action to be taken.

Following up an incident

It is often helpful, once the immediate situation has been dealt with, for staff to reflect on the incident, to consider what further action may be necessary in respect of the perpetrator and victim and to see if there are any lessons to be learned from the experience.

Effective action could include:

- Considering the actions of the perpetrator to see if there were any underlying causes which may have prompted this behaviour;
- Checking data records to see if the pupil has been involved in any previous incidents. If this is the case, a senior member of staff should meet with the parents of the perpetrator, seek their support in stopping such behaviour and make them aware that a similar incident in the future could have serious consequences for their child;
- Monitoring the perpetrator's future behaviour;
- Considering which other members of staff need to be informed, for example, the Headteacher, Assistant Headteachers, learning leaders or class teacher;
- Checking to see if there are any times in the school day, or any places in the school, where pupils feel particularly vulnerable. If so, try to find ways of overcoming this.

For example, if incidents have occurred in the playground, check that staff are on the alert for such behaviour at lunch and break times;

- Considering if it would be beneficial to discuss the issues further in a school assembly or class discussion. This requires careful judgement. It may expose the victim in an embarrassing and uncomfortable way and could be treated inappropriately by other pupils. On the other hand, it may be an opportunity to develop positive attitudes towards diversity. This will help pupils to understand the damaging effects of prejudice and the determination of the school to combat this.
- Asking all members of staff to keep a protective eye on a known victim(s) of prejudice and taking positive steps over time to build up their trust and to encourage them to report any further incidents;
- Making sure all members of staff are alert for other pupils who may be suffering in silence;
- Asking all members of staff to keep a watchful eye on known perpetrators to prevent further prejudiced incidents.

Consequences & Support

Consequences for the inappropriate actions of the perpetrator are important but may not prevent further incidents of bullying. It is, therefore, essential that the perpetrator is helped to understand the impact of their actions; the reasons for their actions and then given strategies and support to prevent recurrence. This may require long-term in-school support and the involvement of external agencies. Appropriate consequences will be given in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

Support for the victim may include: 1:1 time with an adult to help build self-esteem; peer support; a "trusted" adult at lunchtime who is fully aware of the issues and can offer protection; regular home-school contact between parents and teachers; "open-door" policy for parents with class teacher and senior leaders.

Support for the perpetrator may include: 1:1 time with an adult to help build self-esteem and social skills; social skills group work; peer support; a "trusted" adult at lunchtime who is fully aware of the issues and is able to rapidly intervene in any incident; regular homeschool contact between parents and teachers; "open-door" policy for parents with class teacher and senior leaders; pastoral support programme if a risk of permanent exclusion.

Governance

Episodes of Bullying, Prejudice Related Incidents and the school's response to these are recorded and monitored by the Senior Leadership Team. Governors meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team on a termly basis to discuss safeguarding issues; data relating to Safeguarding, Bullying and Prejudice Related Incidents is published in the Headteacher's

termly report to governors. This enables the leadership team and governing committee to consider and address any general lessons for existing school policy and practice.

Conclusion

We will not be able to eradicate bullying entirely, but by becoming vigilant and raising the awareness of the children to bullying as a cause for concern, we reduce the general level of bullying within the school, and ensure that incidents are reported and dealt with promptly.

Thanks go to the following schools whose policies were used to create this document: Britannia, Cliff Lane, Pipers Vale, Rose Hill, Wickham Market and Sidegate Primary, Springfield Infants School.

Dealing with a Bullying or Prejudice Related Incident
A Step-by-step Guide

Incident

If you witness an incident:

- Intervene immediately to protect the victim and prevent escalation
- Express disapproval of the perpetrators actions
- Reinforce the school rules

If you receive a report of an incident:

- Listen carefully to the report
- Identify any potential witnesses to the incident

Support and reassure the victim

Gather evidence from the victim, perpetrator and any witnesses to the incident

(Class teachers may want to ask for the assistance of the Learning Mentor in this task)

Record details of the incident on CPOMS and alert the DSL/ADSLs and the class teacher of those involved

(Victim/Perpetrator)

DSL/ADSL will be able to alert you to any previous incidents by the perpetrator

Apply consequences to the perpetrator in line with the Behaviour Policy

Inform the parents/carers of both the victim and the perpetrator at or by the end of the school day, supported by the Learning Mentor

Consider and implement any immediate or longer term follow-up action arising from the incident e.g. PSHE circle time

Appendix 1

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE

Advice for parents and families on how to support their children and the school in combating Bullying and Prejudice

Although it is not possible to eradicate bullying entirely, your child's school has an antibullying policy and uses it to reduce and prevent bullying.

Bullying is **repeated, deliberate** behaviour that makes another person feel threatened, distressed, hurt or upset. Occasionally the distress caused may not be consciously intended by the perpetrator, this will depend upon the perpetrator's age and ability to understand the consequences of their behaviour. At Halifax Primary we use the acronym '**STOP**' (Several Times On Purpose) to remind children of the difference between bullying and other types of poor behaviour such as falling out with friends or common playtime accidents.

It is not acceptable in school (or in UK law) for any person to show **prejudice** through **racist, homophobic** or **disablist** behaviour. Any incident that is perceived to be racist, homophobic or disablist, by the victim or any other person, will be investigated and recorded by the school. The perpetrator and victim of such behaviour will be treated in accordance to the school's policy.

Normal Peer Conflict or Bullying?

It is important that children understand what is bullying and what is normal peer conflict.

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Not seeking power or attention.	Seeking power, control of material things.
Generally, not trying to get something.	May attempt to get material things or power.
Remorse – will take responsibility.	No remorse – may blame the victim.

Bullying and Prejudice Related Behaviour can take a variety of forms and may include:

Verbal - This covers name-calling, insults, threats and prejudice related 'jokes'; and incitement of others to behave in a prejudiced way. It also includes ridicule of a person's appearance, speech/accent, special educational needs, background, religion, culture; the regular use, consciously or unconsciously of offensive and discriminatory language. An example of this would be the 'casual' use of homophobic language such as the use of gay to mean stupid.

Written - This includes offensive writing, drawings, emails and text messages as well as items posted on the web, including social networking sites.

Graffiti - This includes offensive writing and drawings in anywhere in the school or a public area.

Physical - This includes a range of violent actions involving hitting, kicking, and the use of weapons, pushing, shoving or tripping someone.

Intimidation/coercion - This includes making fun of children and adults, offensive gestures, mimicry, intimidating body language and obstruction, for example when entering a school classroom, as well as making someone do or say something against their will.

Extortion - Extortion specifically relates to forcing someone to give up something they own, or have in their custody, such as money, personal possessions or school property.

Personal possessions taken or damaged - This includes deliberately damaging or breaking a person's property, spoiling or destroying a piece of work, hiding a pupil's personal property or the school's property that is in the possession of or being used by the victim.

Isolation, being ignored or left out - This includes a refusal to sit next to or work with another child, for example, in working groups, lunchtime queues, and playground activities.

Spreading rumours - The spreading of rumours and/or malicious gossip, particularly with the intention of causing hurt those named in the rumours.

Cyber (Email, Internet, text) - Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

Other prejudice related incidents - This includes the wearing of specific badges, T-shirts carrying slogans or bringing discriminatory literature into school; attempting to recruit others to organisations and groups that promote any form of prejudice.

Parent and families have an important part to play in helping schools deal with bullying and prejudice related behaviour.

* Discourage your child from using bullying/prejudice behaviour at home or elsewhere.

* Show your child how to resolve difficult situations without using violence or aggression.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying:

A child may indicate by their behaviour that they are being bullied. These behaviours could indicate any number of problems but bullying is a possibility and an adult should investigate if a child:

- refuses to go outside at break times or refuses to stay at school for school dinners

- requests to change classes or school
- behaves immaturely, i.e. the child reverts to a previous behaviour such as thumb-sucking
- becomes withdrawn, clingy, moody, uncooperative or non-communicative
- finds it difficult to concentrate or school performance deteriorates
- is frightened of walking to or from school and/or begs to be driven to school
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering and/or self-harms (e.g. scratches themselves)
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning or is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged and/or has possessions "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable and/or is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- is afraid to use the internet/mobile phone and is jumpy when a text, IM or email is received
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

If your child has been bullied:

- Talk to your child calmly about it.
- Make a note of what your child says – particularly who was involved; how often the incidents have happened; where they happened and what exactly happened.
- Reassure your child that telling you about the bullying was the right thing to do.
- Explain that any further incidents should be reported to a teacher immediately.
- Explain the problems that your child is experiencing to their class teacher.
- Keep in touch with the school until the problem has been resolved.

Talk with teachers about bullying:

- Try to stay calm – bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts.
- Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened – give dates, places and the names of other people involved.
- Make a note of what action the school intends to take.
- Ask if there is anything that you can do to help your child at school.

- Remember that the school has to help both victims and bullies.
- Stay in touch with the school – tell them if things improve as well as if problems continue.

Further help and advice for parents can be obtained from:

Kidscape

Parents' Anti-Bullying Line <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>