

# Mount Pleasant School

## Anti-bullying Policy



<b>Approved by:</b>	SGC	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	September 2023	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	September 2024	

This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ and ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’ guidance.

### **1. Aims:**

The aim of our anti-bullying policy is to ensure that our children learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment, without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will children be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at schools.

This policy outlines what Mount Pleasant Primary School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.

Mount Pleasant Primary School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

### **2. Links with Other School Policies and Practices**

- This policy links with several school policies, including:
  - Behaviour policy
  - Complaints policy
  - Child Protection & Safeguarding policy)
  - Curriculum policies, such as, RSE & PSHE
  - E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy

### **3. Links to Legislation**

There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986.

### **4. Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of:

- The headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that sanctions are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.
- Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- All staff, including governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.

- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.

## 5. Definition of Bullying

- Bullying can be defined as 'behaviour by an individual or a group, **repeated over time** that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally'. DfE 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying'.
- Bullying can include physical and emotional abuse such as name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, taking belongings, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, peer isolation (e.g. excluding people from groups) and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- The same unacceptable behaviours can be expressed online; this is sometimes called online bullying or cyberbullying. Specifically, this can include sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.
- Mount Pleasant Primary School recognise that bullying can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.
- Bullying is recognised by Mount Pleasant Primary School as being a form of child on child abuse; children can abuse other children.
  - Abuse is abuse and it should never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up'.
  - We recognise that even if there are no reports of bullying, it does not mean it is not happening and it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
  - All victims will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.

## 6. Forms and Types of Bullying Covered by this Policy

- Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including but not limited to:
  - Bullying related to physical appearance
  - Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
  - Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
  - Physical bullying
  - Emotional bullying
  - Sexualised bullying/harassment
  - Bullying via technology, known as online bullying or cyberbullying
  - Prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics) which may include:
    - Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
    - Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
    - Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
    - Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
    - Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

## **7. School Ethos**

- Mount Pleasant Primary School community recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing
- By effectively preventing and tackling bullying our school can help to create a safe and disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential

### **Our Community:**

- Understands the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers.
- Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; this may include children with SEND. Being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the antibullying policy.
- Recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed at all stages.
- Will deal promptly with grievances regarding the school response to bullying in line with our complaints policy.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from Defence Children Services and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

## **8. Responding to Bullying Concerns**

- The following steps will be taken when dealing with any incidents of bullying reported to the school:
- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.

- The DSL will be informed of all bullying concerns, especially where there may be safeguarding issues.
- The headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another appropriate member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school on MyConcern in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection & Safeguarding and confidentiality policies.
- Appropriate sanctions and support, for example as identified within the school behaviour policy and child protection & Safeguarding policy, will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, for example the police if a criminal offence has been committed, or Early Help if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
- Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated and responded to in line with this policy and the school behaviour policy.

## **Cyberbullying**

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied, and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible.
  - This may include:
    - looking at use of the school systems
    - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses
    - Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
    - Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation.

This may include:

- Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
- Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and the school searching and confiscation policy. (We will access the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' and

Childnet cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the school's powers are used proportionately and lawfully).

- Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Where an individual can be identified, the school will ensure that appropriate sanctions are implemented to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help or support they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online.

This may include:

- Advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply.
- Providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists.
- Helping those involved to consider and manage any private information they may have in the public domain.

At Mount Pleasant School we are aware of the increase in Cyber Bullying e.g. malicious text messages, emails or instant messages. The school takes the following actions:

- Children will not use the internet without appropriate supervision
- All KS1 and KS2 children will sign an 'Agreement for the acceptable use of the internet, emails and computers' contract
- Mobile phones are not allowed in school

Children who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. Children must be encouraged to report bullying in schools.

Teaching and support staff are alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy. Effective induction for new staff and families and regular meetings ensure that there are clear procedures to prevent bullying among children and that these are understood by the community.

A child who has been bullied will be supported by:

- offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff
- reassuring the child
- offering continuous support
- restoring self-esteem and confidence.

A child who has bullied will be helped by:

- discussing what happened
- discovering why the child became involved
- establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- informing parents to help change the attitude of the child

## **Bullying is not acceptable at our school**

At Mount Pleasant School we will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through a number of ways such as inclusion in PSHE sessions, assemblies and class themes, in order to ensure that such behaviour does not occur and to raise awareness of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

All our children know that if they are being bullied they must tell someone straight away. they are aware that bullying is taken very seriously and is acted on immediately.

If your child reports that they are being bullied at school, please let us know straight away. We will monitor the situation very carefully and keep you informed.

All incidents of inappropriate behaviour are recorded on MyConcern and parents of both children are always informed about the incident and the action that has been taken.

There are many websites that provide information and support for parents and children including [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk) and [www.cyberbullying.org](http://www.cyberbullying.org)



## **Mount Pleasant School**

### **Agreement for the acceptable use of the internet, e-mails and computers**

At Mount Pleasant School, we understand the importance and benefits of using computers to help with children's learning and personal development. However, we also recognise that safeguards need to be in place to ensure children are kept safe at all times.

Please could parents/carers read and discuss this agreement with their child and then sign the attached form and return it to the school office. We have included two copies in order for you to keep the other one for reference.

- I will only use IT in school for school purposes.
- I will only use any class e-mail address or any school e-mail address of my own when e-mailing.
- I will only open e-mail attachments from people I know, or who my teacher has approved.
- I will not tell other people my password.
- I will only open my own files.
- I will make sure that all IT contact with other children and adults is responsible, polite and sensible.
- I will not send anyone material that could be considered threatening, bullying, offensive or illegal.
- I will not deliberately look for, save or send anything that could be unpleasant or nasty. If I accidentally find anything like this I will tell my teacher immediately.
- I will not give out my own details such as my name, phone number or home address.
- I will not arrange to meet someone unless this is part of a school project approved by my teacher and a responsible adult comes with me.
- I will be responsible for my behaviour when using IT because I know that these rules are to keep me safe.
- I will support the school approach to online safety and not deliberately upload or add any images, video, sounds or text that could upset any member of the school community.
- I know that my use of IT can be checked and that my parent/ carer contacted if a member of school staff is concerned about my e-safety.



Appendix 2: Schools copy for children to sign regarding acceptable use of the internet, emails and computers



**School's copy**

**Please sign and return this copy to school**

<p><b>Mount Pleasant School</b>  <b>Agreement for the acceptable use of the internet, e-mails and computers</b>                  Please complete, sign and return to the school office.</p>	
<b>Pupil:</b>	<b>Class:</b>
<p><b>Pupil's agreement:</b>                  I have read and understood the school rules on the acceptable use of the internet, e-mails and computers. I will use the computer system and internet in a responsible way and obey these rules at all times.</p>	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<p><b>Parents' consent for internet access:</b>                  I have read and understood the school rules for acceptable use of the internet, e-mails and computers and give permission for my son/daughter to access the internet. I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that pupils cannot access inappropriate materials. I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the nature or content of materials accessed through the internet. I agree that the school is not liable for any damages arising from use of the internet facilities.</p>	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Please print name:</b>	
<p><b>Parents' consent for web publication of work and photographs:</b>                  I agree that, if selected, my son/daughter's work may be published on the school website. I also agree that photographs that include my son/daughter may be published subject to the school rules that photographs will not clearly identify individuals and that full names will not be used.</p>	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>