

Torfield and Saxon Mount Academy Trust

Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy is based on DfE guidance “*Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies*”, March 2014.

1) Objectives of this Policy

This policy outlines what Torfield School and Saxon Mount Community School will do to prevent and tackle bullying. The policy has been drawn up through the involvement of the whole school community, and where appropriate, the School Council and we are committed to developing and maintaining an anti-bullying culture where no bullying will be tolerated or go unchallenged.

2) Our school community:

- Discusses, monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports all staff to promote positive relationships to prevent bullying and will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures that pupils are aware that all bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that pupils feel safe to learn; and that pupils abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Reports back to parents/carers regarding their concerns on bullying and deals promptly with complaints. We expect parents/ carers in turn to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere and utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate
- Supports our SEN pupils in their interaction and communication with each other, to enable them to understand what safe and appropriate behaviour is.

3) Definition of bullying

Bullying is “Behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, March 2014)

Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; hurting others; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. This includes the same inappropriate and harmful behaviours expressed via digital devices (cyberbullying) such as the sending of inappropriate messages by phone, text, Instant Messenger, through websites and social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet.

4) Forms of bullying covered by this Policy

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including:

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture.
- Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability).
- Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions.
- Bullying related to parental circumstances
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic bullying).
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances.
- Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying.
- Bullying via technology –“cyberbullying”

5) Preventing, identifying and responding to bullying

The school will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others which will be upheld by all.
- Work with staff and outside agencies to identify all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' communication, social and emotional skills, including their resilience.
- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Challenge practice which does not uphold the British values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Consider all opportunities for addressing bullying in all forms throughout the curriculum and supported with a range of approaches such as through displays, assemblies, peer support, PHSE, Citizenship, Additional Support Provision and the school council.
- Regularly update and evaluate our approaches to take into account the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Train all staff including teaching staff, support staff (including administration staff and site support staff) to identify all forms of bullying, follow the school policy and procedures (including recording and reporting incidents).
- Proactively gather and record concerns (using pupil concern forms) and intelligence about bullying incidents and issues so as to effectively develop strategies to prevent bullying from occurring.
- Actively create "safe spaces" for vulnerable children and young people, e.g. Blue Room at Saxon Mount, small/quiet rooms at Torfield
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully and those who have been bullied.
- Work with other agencies and the wider school community to prevent and tackle concerns.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.
- Respond to each case individually, based on the SEN/ASD needs of the pupils, recognising that many have ASD and communication difficulties, making understanding the social implications of language and interaction more difficult to interpret.

6) Involvement of pupils

We will:

- Regularly canvas children and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying and their sense of 'safety'.
- Ensure that pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Publicise the details of help lines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

7) Liaison with parents and carers and visitors to school

We will:

- Make sure that key information (including policies and named points of contact) about bullying is available to parents/carers.
- Ensure that all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively.
- Ensure all parents/carers know where to access independent advice about bullying.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address any issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Expect that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
- Ensure that visitors to school are made aware of how to raise any concerns in relation to safety and that they model the school's expectations in promoting positive British values of tolerance and respect as a condition of any visit to school.

8) Links with other school policies and practices

This Policy links with a number of other school policies /procedures, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policies
- Confidentiality agreements
- e-Safety (Online Safety) and Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs)
- Curriculum Policies such as PSHE and citizenship and computing
- Social media policy
- Induction

9) Links to legislation

There are a number of pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying as well as criminal law. These may include:

- 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
- The Computer Misuse Act 1990

10) Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- The Academy Advisory Board to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy on behalf of the Board of Directors.

- The Executive Headteacher, Head of School, Senior Managers, Teaching and Non Teaching staff to be aware of this policy and implement it accordingly.
- The Head of School and Senior Managers to communicate the policy to the school community and to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably.
- Staff to proactively support and uphold the policy
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

The named Director with lead responsibility for this policy is: Mike Saunders

The named member of staff with lead responsibility for this policy is:- Caroline Higgins Assistant Headteacher (Saxon Mount), Sian Hayward, Assistant Headteacher (Torfield).

11) Monitoring & review, policy into practice

This policy was approved by the Academy Advisory Board on: _____

This policy will be monitored and reviewed: November 2017

The named Governor for bullying will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying and outcomes. The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.

Supporting Organisations and Guidance

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Beat Bullying: www.beatbullying.org
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- DfE: “Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies”, and “Supporting children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools” March 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- DfE: “No health without mental health”: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-health-without-mental-health-a-cross-government-outcomes-strategy>
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net

Cyberbullying

- Childnet International: www.childnet.com
- Digizen: www.digizen.org
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk

LGBT

- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Pace: www.pacehealth.org.uk
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- DfE: SEND code of practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Racism and Hate

- Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk
- Kick it Out: www.kickitout.org
- Report it: www.report-it.org.uk
- Stop Hate: www.stophateuk.org
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational

Additional Content

Dealing with Incidents

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Head of school and/or designated lead- Assistant headteacher or member of the SLT.
- The Assistant headteacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- Teachers/Form Tutors will be kept informed as appropriate
- When responding to cyberbullying concerns the school will take all available steps to identify the bully, including looking at the school systems, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary. The police will need to be involved to enable the service provider to look into the data of another user should this be necessary.
- Where the bullying takes place outside of the school site then the school will ensure that the concern is investigated and that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools Behaviour policy and Safeguarding/ Child Protection Policy.
- Parents/carers will be kept informed
- Sanctions will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned
- If necessary and appropriate, the police or other local services will be consulted

Supporting Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher or a member of staff of their choice
- Being advised to talk to a member of staff who will complete a concern form as a record of the bullying incident and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened and establishing the concern and the need to change
- Informing parents/carers to support the school in challenging the behaviour
- Providing appropriate additional learning and support from Additional Support Team
- If online, requesting content be removed and reporting account/content to service provider
- Sanctioning in line with school behaviour policy. This may include official warnings, detentions, removal of privileges, time on report. It could include exclusion if deemed appropriate.
- Speaking with police or local services