



## Anti-Bullying Policy

Name of School	Petersgate Infant School
Date of review	September 2023
Date of next review	September 2024
Reviewed by	Wendy Mitchell Headteacher

### School Vision

"for all children to grow into responsible, caring individuals who actively and positively contribute to the community."

At Petersgate Infant School, our vision outlined above is strengthened by our values of safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship. These values symbolise warmth, community and cohesion to ensure we are "working together to achieve our best".

As a school, we can apply these values through the following aims:

### Aims

- Ensuring everyone stays healthy and safe.
- Ensuring everyone feels valued and has a sense of belonging.
- Providing a high quality learning environment.
- Helping everyone enjoy learning and achieving their best.
- Nurturing and developing the whole child.
- Ensuring everyone makes a positive contribution to the school and wider community.

Safeguarding at Petersgate Infant School is carried out in line with the statutory guidance in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' published by the Department for Education.

## 1. Rationale

Petersgate Infant School is against all forms of bullying. This includes bullying between pupils, staff members, parents and any other members of our community.

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

Bullying has a negative effect on all those involved; the target, the perpetrator and the bystanders. Every child and young person, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, should have the best possible start in life. We aim:

- to ensure everyone stays healthy and safe
- to ensure everyone feels valued and has a sense of belonging
- to provide a high quality learning environment
- to help everyone enjoy learning and achieve their best
- to nurture and develop the whole child
- to ensure everyone makes a positive contribution to the school and wider community

## 2. Definition

Our definition of bullying is taken from Hampshire Children's Trust.

***"Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally"***

Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. As outlined in the Keeping Children Safe in Education document (DfE September 2023), child-on-child abuse (formerly known as peer-on-peer abuse) can take many forms, one of which is bullying. Outlined below are the main types of bullying, all of which, the school will not tolerate.

The main types of bullying are:

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- Verbal (name calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups).
- Cyber-bullying (e.g. misuse of social networks)
- Prejudicial based or discriminatory bullying

Behaviour is bullying behaviour if:

- It is repetitive, wilful or persistent;
- It is intentionally harmful, carried out by an individual or group; and,
- There is an imbalance of power leaving the person who is bullied feeling defenceless.

Pupils 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 reluctance to come to school.

This policy is designed to ensure that as a school we are alert to signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it.

### **3. Procedures**

All allegations of bullying are dealt with by the Headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team and these are taken very seriously. If a child makes an accusation of bullying, staff will reassure the child that they will be supported and kept safe. In line with the school's other safeguarding policies, practices and procedures, allegations made will not be dismissed as banter or 'as part of growing up'. All allegations will be taken seriously and acted upon in a timely manner, with support in place for the child.

They are dealt with by

- Gathering information about the incidents by talking to staff, children, parents etc.
- Identify if the acts fulfil the criteria set out in our definition.
- If the incident is not bullying it will still be dealt with by talking to the child who has carried out the harmful behaviour and showing them that it was not appropriate, the other child was hurt and that it must not happen again. Further sanctions may be carried out if appropriate in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.
- If the incident is bullying then the above measures will be taken and also the child's parents asked to meet with the headteacher to discuss the situation.
- In both cases, the situation will be monitored by all the staff both in class and in the playground.
- The child who has been harmed will be given support to disclose any further incidents.
- Parents of the hurt child will regularly be informed of their child's safety until such a time that all parties feel the situation has been resolved.
- The child who perpetrates bullying behaviour or is a bystander to the bullying behaviour will be supported to change their behaviour by e.g.
  - Discussions with a member of the senior leadership team
  - Additional home communication
  - Individual behaviour plan and/or individual risk assessment

The pupils are taught about friendships and encouraged to use appropriate behaviour through

- Circle times
- Buddying new children to the school
- PSHE lessons which reflect our SCARF values
- Assemblies
- Learning specific to bullying during 'Anti-bullying Week' – each year there is often a particular theme the school will focus on

Pupils are also taught what to do if someone tries to harm them physically or emotionally and this includes

- Saying 'stop it I don't like it'
- Walking away

- Telling an adult
- Staying with friends who they trust

This policy will be monitored through children's surveys, parent questionnaires and by Governor monitoring visits.

**Policy review date: September 2024**