



Wraxall Church of England Primary School

Anti - Bullying Policy

Issued: October 2023

To next be reviewed: October 2024

Our School Vision

Picture a school at the heart of the community, surrounded by nature and where the children can't wait to arrive in the morning because they know that they will experience the excitement and joy of learning.

Picture a school where the children are *inspired* to aim high and believe that their dreams are achievable because they will have developed the skills and knowledge needed. They have the confidence to challenge themselves because they know that their mistakes will only make them stronger. They will flourish and become all that they aspire to be.

Picture a school where the children are *nurtured* to be the best that they can be. They know that school is a safe and inclusive place because they have seen that all are welcomed and cared for. They will show compassion in all that they do and will make society a kinder place for all.

Picture a school where the children are celebrated for being unique individuals who together form a strong and united team. They become active and creative citizens who will *achieve* amazing things throughout their lives and develop a better future for all.

Picture Wraxall Church of England Primary School – *Inspiring, Nurturing, Achieving*

Our School Vision Statement takes as its starting point the following model developed by the Church of England and the Church in Wales:

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level.'

The school vision also reflects the Church of England's Vision for Education and supports the promotion of Christian values. Our vision is based around elements of 'The Parable of the Sower'.

"The seeds sown in good soil" Mark 4: 13-20

In our school we follow our values to help us to show compassion towards others and our world. When we demonstrate our values, we are helping our school to grow and flourish and enabling our community to live "life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Our School Christian Values

Our School's Christian Values are demonstrated in all that we do and say

***Compassion * Responsibility * Respect * Perseverance * Friendship * Honesty * Courage**

RATIONALE

At Wraxall CofE VA Primary School we are committed to providing a secure, caring and happy environment where children can learn and play safely and be free from bullying behaviours. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated in our school. It is contrary to the Christian ethos of our school and the expectations of all members of the school community.

At Wraxall we acknowledge that bullying may occasionally take place. This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures that are put into place to assist all staff in preventing and dealing with any behaviour deemed to be bullying.

AIMS

Through this policy we aim to:

- Promote a positive, caring, Christian ethos of kindness and consideration among all children and adults in our school environment, free from the fear of bullying
- Provide guidance to deal with any incidents of bullying swiftly and consistently
- Help individuals understand the impact of bullying through PHSE, Jigsaw and anti-bullying lessons
- Provide all children with strategies and skills to seek help and feel secure in reporting any incidences of bullying.

What is bullying?

At Wraxall, we consider bullying to be unacceptable behaviour which occurs **Several Times On Purpose** and we use this to help children recognise a behaviour that might be bullying.

- Bullying is a deliberate, hurtful, upsetting, frightening or threatening behaviour by an individual or group towards other people. This includes unkind text or internet messages.
- Bullying is repeated over time.
- Bullying is unkind and may result in worry, fear, pain and distress to the victim(s).

Bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling or arguments. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset; this is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship issues and develop the skills to repair relationships. It is bullying if the behaviour is repeated over time and is intentional.

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional** – being unfriendly, excluding, humiliation, tormenting or ridicule;
- **Verbal** – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone;
- **Physical** – pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, biting or any form of physical violence;
- **Cyber** – setting up or commenting on 'hate' websites, sending offensive messages through text or email, abusing the target through their mobile phone, internet gaming, websites or chat rooms;
- **Racial/Religious** – Where one's skin or faith is used as a means of ridicule or persecution;
- **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive or sexist comments;
- **Homophobic** – because of or focussing on the issue of sexuality;
- ☐ **Any other** unfavourable or negative comments, actions or gestures relating to a person's disability, special needs or family circumstance.

Identity-based bullying:

Identity-based bullying relates to an incident of bullying which is perceived to be discriminatory or prejudiced. This includes all the aforementioned types of bullying. Any reports of identity-based bullying will be dealt with following North Somerset guidance and, where parents are notified, reported to the LSP using the identity-based bullying incident form.

Wider community:

Children will be made aware that not only is bullying unacceptable within the school, but also in the wider community and bullying incidences that occur off the school premises will be followed up in school.

How to recognise signs and symptoms of bullying:

Children and parents are supported in an environment and ethos which encourages children to share worries and concerns in a safe atmosphere. It is useful for all adults to be aware of the following possible signs and investigate further:

- If a child is frightened of walking to or from school or of going onto the school playground;
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence;
- Starts stammering;
- Feels ill often;
- Begins to underperform at school;
- Has damaged or missing clothes or belongings;
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- Starts to bully other children or becomes aggressive;
- Is frightened to say what is wrong.

Although any of these signs could indicate other problems, bullying should be considered and investigated.

Children with Special Educational Needs:

All adults at Wraxall are aware of the need for extra vigilance with children with Special Educational Needs who may be manipulated to do things that they would not normally do or provoked into angry outbursts. This constitutes bullying and should be dealt with according to the same procedures.

Procedures for responding to incidents of bullying:

The following steps will be taken:

- Respond calmly and consistently to all allegations. Let the child know that they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Listen to the problem and get as much information as you can, such as where and when the incidences may have taken place and by whom. If appropriate, take notes.
- Offer advice to the victim about keeping safe and avoiding further incidences until the problem can be resolved.
- Talk to all children involved separately. In the first instance, adopt a problem solving approach in order to resolve the situation satisfactorily for both parties. Ideally reconciliation should take place.

- Take appropriate action (apologies, sanctions) to end the bullying behaviour. Reinforce to the child who is bullying that their behaviour is unacceptable.
- Should bullying behaviour continue, further sanctions may need to be applied. This includes going to the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or senior staff, missing playtimes or losing privileges. An attempt will be made to help the child who is bullying to understand the consequences of, and change, their behaviour.
- Parents will be informed. They will be invited into school to discuss their child's behaviour and work with the school to stop the bullying.
- In the most severe cases, it may be appropriate to make a permanent exclusion [see Behaviour Policy].
- Perpetrators of bullying will be monitored to ensure that further bullying incidents will not take place.
- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be recorded that day by the member of staff who has been approached
- This account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher who will investigate all concerned, will record the findings and report back to parents what has been found out and what actions the school intends to follow
- All actions will be monitored and there will be feedback to parents about their child but not other children
- Teachers and support staff will be kept informed
- Restorative justice will be used whenever possible, with a solution to move on and what to do next time.

Advice given to children:

What should you do if you are being bullied?

Everyone has a right to feel safe. If a member of the school community feels that they are being bullied it is important to remember that it is not their fault. There are procedures and strategies in place to help:

- Tell the person to stop if you can.
- Use eye contact and tell them to go away
- Move away from the bully; go to a group of friends.
- Ignore them.
- Walk Away.
- Always tell someone you can trust.

Our school has many trusted adults that you can tell, but we cannot do anything about it if we don't know. You may want to tell your parent(s), a friend, a brother or sister or other relative. If you feel scared about telling, ask a friend to come with you.

- If you feel that you can't tell an adult about it, write the information down and give it to an adult.
- If you feel that you have not been listened to, keep on speaking out until someone listens and helps you.
- When you tell an adult, give as much information as you can.
- Don't blame yourself or think that it is your fault.
- Don't do what they say
- Don't hide it

What should you do if you see someone being bullied?

- Try to help without putting yourself in danger. Ignoring someone being bullied is unfair to the victim and is not part of Wroxall's supportive ethos.
- If it is safe to do so, tell the bully to stop. Say 'Stop. We don't like your behaviour.'
- Let the person who is being bullied know that you are going to help them.
- Tell a member of staff immediately. Ask an adult what you can do to help the victim.
- Tell an adult what you have seen. Don't stay silent or the bullying will keep happening.
- Befriend the person being bullied and ask them to join in your games.

What will happen if you are bullying someone?

- A teacher will tell you that what you are doing is bullying.
- A teacher will work with you to stop you doing it again and help you to say sorry.
- A teacher will tell your parents what has happened.
 - A teacher will keep checking up on your behaviour to make sure that you are behaving positively.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Being offered an opportunity to discuss the experience with a staff member
- Being given reassurance that it will be investigated
- Being offered ongoing support for as long as necessary by: staff being vigilant, asking about the pupil's welfare and regularly "checking" in with the pupil

Pupils who have been displaying bullying behaviour will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why the pupil became involved
- Informing parents or guardians to help support changing the attitude of the pupil
- Being offered ongoing support to help the child recognise and change their behaviours.

Prevention

We will use a range of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Sharing/discussing using the child-friendly leaflet
- Signing a class behaviour contract
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters.

Further information

This policy should be read alongside

Behaviour policy

SEND policy

Online Safety Policy
Safeguarding Policy

Anti-Bullying Alliance
Beat Bullying
Childline
Kidscape
NSPCC

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
www.beatbullying.org.uk
www.childline.org.uk
www.kidscape.org.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk