

Beckfoot Priestthorpe Anti Bullying Policy

To be read in conjunction with The Beckfoot
Trust Behaviour Policy and Beckfoot Priestthorpe Positive Behaviour Protocol.

Everyone at Beckfoot Priestthorpe has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. We aim to provide a safe, caring and friendly climate for learning where bullying is not tolerated. Through our ethos and curriculum we educate children to ensure they understand the different types of bullying and all issues relating to bullying. This enables them to feel confident to know how to seek support from a trusted adult in school should they feel unsafe or are worried about others.

We strive to ensure we are inclusive of all children and their families by openly discussing diversity, inclusion and equality. There are No Outsiders at our school.

Families need to feel confident that their children are safe and cared for in school and any incidents of bullying, when they do arise, are dealt with promptly, firmly and fairly. This Anti Bullying Protocol ensures our school community understands how we promote anti-bullying and address incidents.

What is bullying?

Behaviour by an individual or group usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. It is when a relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Types of bullying:

Physical – a child may be physically punched, kicked, hit, spat at etc.

Verbal – verbal abuse can take the form of name-calling. It may be directed towards gender, ethnic origin, physical or social disability or personality.

Exclusion – a child may be bullied simply by being excluded from, or left out of discussions / activities by those they believe to be their friends.

Damage to property or theft – pupils may have their property damaged or stolen. The bully may use physical threats in order that property is handed over to him or her.

Cyber bullying - the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature (Text, WhatsApp, Snapchat, Facebook etc)

Preventing Bullying.

As a school we will use our Personal Development Curriculum to help and educate our children on how to prevent bullying. This includes:

- Assemblies
- Home/School Agreement
- Reading / telling stories about bullying
- Making up role-plays and having open and frank discussions about why bullying matters
- Restorative practice to support children
- Explicit teaching of protective behaviours and positive relationships
- Workshops with outside agencies e.g. Police
- Anti-Bullying work in and around anti-bullying week -
- Respecting all our differences: No Outsiders assemblies
- Displaying information on website and around school on what to do if see or are bullied
- Monitor and review anti bullying curriculum and protocol regularly



Protective Strategies for Children

We explicitly teach children to use anti bullying strategies to enable them to build the skills to stand up and speak out about bullying:

- Immediately tell a trusted adult in school.
- At first ignore name calling or teasing as the words are not worth listening to and by not accepting them the words stay with the abuser.
- If name calling or teasing is persistent or nasty, tell a trusted adult in school
- Be confident and use a strong voice to insist they be left alone or they will tell an adult
- Tell an adult if you see or hear bullying: it is the responsibility of all children to stand up and speak out

Cyber-Bullying

As younger and younger children have access to online technology through a vast array of platforms. We take our responsibility to educate our children on how to stay safe online seriously and work closely with the Police and families to ensure the safety of our pupils. Often these incidents happen outside school hours but we can support families and children in how to address them.

Cyberbullying/online bullying include:

- ◇ excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups
- ◇ sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages
- ◇ creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos
- ◇ 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games



Training...

All our staff have regular training on how to identify and address incidents of bullying. Training is also given by the Police and other outside agencies to ensure we are up to date on the latest practices and procedures. Throughout the school year we also offer workshops to parents on aspects of bullying especially online and cyber bullying as children get older and move onto secondary school.

Child - On-Child Abuse

Children can abuse other children both inside and outside of school or online. We understand that it could be happening in our school and it may not be reported. If we have concerns about peer on peer abuse, we report it to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. We challenge all inappropriate behaviours between peers that are abusive in nature.

Child-On-Child abuse can take various forms including:

- Serious bullying (including cyber bullying) Relationship abuse Domestic violence Child sexual exploitation Youth and serious youth violence (including gangs)
- Harmful sexual behaviour Gender/Race violence

Responding to Bullying

As a school we will endeavour to ensure there is adequate supervision at all times. Any concerns will be dealt with quickly, fairly and firmly with the involvement of families as and when necessary. We will treat all children with respect and understanding.

If bullying is suspected or reported we will listen to the suspected victim, the suspected bully and any witnesses. If any degree of bullying is identified the staff member will pass the incident to a Senior Leader/ DSL. The following action will be taken:

- A full investigation will be completed by talking to the victim, bully and any witnesses.
- Help, support and counselling will be given to both the victim and the bully as appropriate.
- The victim will be offered an opportunity to talk about the experience with a trusted adult as soon as is possible
- Families of the victim and bully will be informed
- Continuing support and additional arrangements to ensure the child feels safe, will be offered should the child and/ or family feel it is needed
- Sanctions will be implemented for the bully following the Beckfoot Trust Behaviour Policy and Beckfoot Priestthorpe Behaviour Protocol
- Severe and/ or persistent bullying may lead to fixed-term or permanent exclusion
- Incidents will be recorded by the school and kept electronically (CPOMs)

As a parent...

Look for unusual behaviour in your children. For example, they may suddenly decide they do not wish to attend school, they may feel ill regularly or not be doing as well with their work.

Always take an active role in your child's education. Ask how their day has gone, whom they played with etc.

If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, let the school know.

Your concern will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.

