





Anti-Bullying Policy

Joy Lane Primary School

(based on 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' DfE guidance July 2017)
This policy will be reviewed at least annually, and following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance or procedures

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Debra Hines

Named Governor with lead responsibility: Mrs Nicki Mattin

Draft Prepared:	March 2026
Date Agreed:	23 rd March 2026
Signed by Executive Headteacher: <i>Ms D Hines</i>	
Signed by Chair of Governors: <i>Mrs N Mattin</i>	
Date Policy to be Reviewed:	March 2027

This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also takes into account the DfE statutory guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2016. The school has read Childnet’s “Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools”.

1) Policy objectives:

- This policy outlines what Joy Lane Primary School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.
- The policy has been reviewed in line with our new behaviour policy and approach.
- Joy Lane Primary School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of children, adults or young people is not tolerated in any form.

2) Links with other school policies and practices

This policy links or could link with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy
- Child protection policy
- Confidentiality policy
- Online safety and Acceptable use policies (AUP)
- Curriculum plans, such as PSHE, RSE and computing
- Searching, screening and confiscation (see Behaviour Policy)

3) 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 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
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (*if appropriate*)
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986

4) Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- The Executive Headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a wholeschool approach is embedded.
- School Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy, alongside the behaviour 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.
 - Pupils to abide by the policy.

As a whole school community, we will:

- Monitor and review our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Support staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
- Recognise that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensure 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.
- Require all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Report back to parents/carers regarding concerns on bullying, dealing promptly with complaints.
- Seek to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilise support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

5) Definition of bullying

- Bullying is “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)
- At Joy Lane, we teach the children to recognise that bullying may be in many different forms. The acronym STOP will be used as a reminder as it reinforces that bullying is something that happens Several Times On Purpose.
- Bullying can include physical and emotional abuse such as name calling; taunting; mocking; making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. 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.
- Bullying can be a form of peer-on-peer abuse and can be emotionally abusive; it can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional development.

6) 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, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability)
- Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions
- 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, known as online or cyberbullying

7) School ethos

The Joy Lane Primary School community recognises that 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. Our whole school ethos – be ready, be respectful, be responsible, underpins our interactions with the children and prioritises the respect of others. By effectively preventing and tackling bullying, our schools can help to create a safe environment where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential. Our restorative approach to dealing with behaviour incidents (as outlined in our behaviour policy) seeks to equip our children with the tools to deal with conflict resolution, understand the impact of their actions on others and learn from experiences.

8) Responding to bullying or the accusation of bullying

The following steps may be taken when dealing with all 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 member of staff will then record what happened on 'MyConcern' where it will be passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Officers and Lead.
- 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 Executive Headteacher/designated safeguarding lead or member of the school leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
- The designated safeguarding lead will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- The school will inform other staff members, and parents/carers, where appropriate.
- Consequences (as identified within the school behaviour policy) and support for individuals will be implemented, in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as: the police (if a criminal offence has been committed) or other local services including early help or children's social care (if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm).
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details on MyConcern regarding decisions and action taken.

Supporting pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the designated safeguarding lead, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling, engaging with parents and carers.

- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this could include support through Early Help or Specialist Children's Services, or support through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Pupils who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change, implementing a form of restorative justice.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Consequences, in line with school behaviour policy; this may include internal exclusion, removal of privileges (including online access when encountering cyberbullying concerns), restorative lessons, and fixed-term or permanent exclusions.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Specialist Children's Services, or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as appropriate.

Supporting adults

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults (staff and parents) who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher.
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

Adults (staff and parents) who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher to establish the concern.
- Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

9) 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 using a restorative approach 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.
- Access the Childnet Cyberbullying guidance.
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 also the school searching and confiscation policy. (**Note:** Schools should ensure they access the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' and Childnet Cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the schools powers are used proportionately and lawfully)
 - Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Ensure that consequences are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully in a restorative approach, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that 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 think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

10) Preventing bullying

Environment

The whole school community 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.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer-on-peer abuse).
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality, appearance-related difference or children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities.

- Challenge practice and language that does not uphold the values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively create “safe spaces” for vulnerable children and young people and provide ‘zen zones’ in line with our behaviour policy.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice 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.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the school’s attention, which involves or affects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc.
- Implement appropriate consequences, in line with our behaviour policy; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully and those who have been bullied.

Education and Training

The school community will:

- Train all staff, including teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school’s policy and procedures (including recording and reporting incidents on MyConcern).
- Provide a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as through displays, PSHE lessons, assemblies, peer support, the school council, etc.
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils’ social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

10) Involvement of pupils

We will:

- Involve pupils and the school council in policy writing and decision making to ensure that they understand the school’s approach and are clear about the part they have to play to prevent bullying.
- Regularly canvas children and young people’s views on the extent and nature of bullying, including using PASS data.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.

- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of consequences that 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 internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

11) Involvement and liaison with parents and carers *We*

will:

- Take steps to involve parents and carers in developing policies and procedures to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of bullying.
- Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats.
Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

12) Supporting Adults

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of adults, including staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

- Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:
 - Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher.
 - Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to future concerns.
 - Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools' relational behaviour and discipline policy.
 - Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
 - Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
 - Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.
- Adults who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:
 - Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the Executive Headteacher to establish the concern.
 - Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
 - If online, requesting that content be removed.
 - Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

13) Monitoring and review: putting policy into practice

- The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate systems to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The Executive headteacher and members of the leadership team will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate.
- The named Governor for bullying will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes. This will be done through the Executive Headteacher's report to Governors.

14) Useful links and supporting organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The BIG Award: www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php
- 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
- The Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practice-schools

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities: www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf
- DfE: SEND code of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0to-25

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
- The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS): www.gov.uk/government/groups/ukcouncil-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis

Race, religion and nationality

- 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
- Tell Mama: www.tellmamauk.org
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com/
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational

LGBT

- Barnardos LGBT Hub: www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm
- Metro Charity: www.metrocentreonline.org
- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Proud Trust: www.theproudtrust.org
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW) www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk
- A Guide for Schools:
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAWCoalition-Schools-Guide.pdf
- Disrespect No Body: www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaignposters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/toolsinformation/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-gender-related

Additional links can be found in 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' (July 2017):
www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying