



Ashton St. Peter's Church of England VA Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Linked with Home/school Agreement and Behaviour Policy

Ratified in April 2026

Update in April 2027

Introduction

Ashton St. Peter's is committed to providing a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can flourish and "find the keys to life and learning". Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

This policy reflects current statutory guidance including:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2024/25)*
- *Preventing and Tackling Bullying (DfE 2024)*
- *Behaviour in Schools (DfE 2024)*
- *Searching, Screening and Confiscation (DfE 2023)*
- The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty
- SEND Code of Practice (2015, updated 2024)

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is behaviour that:

- is intentional,
- is repeated or has the potential to be repeated,
- involves an imbalance of power,
- causes physical or emotional harm.

Bullying may be:

- Physical - hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal - name-calling, threats, discriminatory language
- Social/relational - excluding, spreading rumours
- Cyberbullying - online harassment, image-based abuse, misuse of devices or platforms
- Prejudicial - racist, sexist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, faith-based, or related to disability/SEND

The school recognises the growing risks of AI-generated bullying content, including manipulated images, deepfakes, or harmful digital material created or shared to intimidate or humiliate.

Aims and objectives

We aim to:

- Create a culture where bullying is never accepted and kindness, respect and Christian values guide behaviour.
- Ensure all pupils feel safe, valued and able to learn without fear.
- Prevent bullying through a whole-school approach to behaviour, relationships and safeguarding.
- Ensure a **consistent, transparent response** to all bullying concerns.
- Promote pupil voice and empower children to report concerns.
- Work in partnership with parents, carers and external agencies where needed.
- Ensure staff understand their responsibilities and are confident in identifying, reporting and responding to bullying.

The role of governors

The governing body:

- Ensures the school fulfils its statutory duties regarding behaviour, safeguarding and equality.
- Monitors bullying incidents and trends, including discriminatory bullying and online harm.
- Reviews the effectiveness of this policy annually.
- Ensures the headteacher maintains accurate records of incidents and actions taken.
- Responds to parental concerns in line with the Complaints Procedure.

The role of the headteacher

The headteacher:

- Implements this policy and ensures all staff understand their responsibilities.

- Ensures staff receive regular training on bullying, online safety, discriminatory bullying and emerging risks (including AI-generated content).
- Promotes a positive culture of mutual respect, belonging and inclusion.
- Ensures pupils are taught how to recognise, report and respond to bullying.
- Oversees the recording, monitoring and analysis of bullying incidents.
- Works with parents and external agencies when concerns escalate or involve safeguarding risks.
- Ensures appropriate support is provided for both victims and those who have bullied others.

The role of the teacher and support staff

All staff:

- Take all concerns of bullying seriously.
- Report and record incidents promptly using school systems.
- Support the child being bullied, ensuring they feel heard and protected.
- Address the behaviour of the child who has bullied, helping them understand impact and change behaviour.
- Inform parents when bullying is persistent, serious or part of a wider pattern.
- Work with the SENCo when bullying involves or affects a pupil with SEND.
- Use curriculum opportunities (PSHE, RSE, RE, Computing, assemblies) to teach empathy, respect and resilience.
- Promote positive relationships through restorative approaches, circle time and values-based education.
- Model respectful behaviour at all times.

The role of parents

Parents are encouraged to:

- Contact the class teacher promptly with any concerns.
- Work in partnership with the school to resolve issues.
- Support the school's values and behaviour expectations.
- Monitor their child's online activity and reinforce safe, respectful use of technology.

If concerns remain unresolved, parents may follow the school's Complaints Procedure.

The role of pupils

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Tell a trusted adult if they are worried about bullying.
- Use the school's "Helping Hand" strategy to identify adults they can talk to.
- Report concerns using the Worry Box or through the School Council.
- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Support peers who may be vulnerable or isolated.

Preventing Bullying

The school promotes a proactive approach through:

- A strong Christian ethos and values-based curriculum.
- High expectations for behaviour and relationships.
- PSHE and RSE teaching on friendships, respect, online safety and managing conflict.
- Anti-Bullying Week each November, linked to the value of *Peace*.
- Assemblies, stories, drama and role-play exploring empathy and diversity.
- Clear supervision in playgrounds and communal areas.
- Online safety education, including risks of AI-generated content.
- Visible anti-bullying posters and pupil-friendly reporting routes.

Responding to Bullying

When bullying is reported or suspected:

1. All concerns are taken seriously.
2. Staff investigate promptly, speaking to all involved.
3. All incidents of bullying are recorded on CPOMS.
4. The headteacher is informed of significant or repeated incidents.
5. Parents of all children involved are contacted where appropriate.
6. Support is provided for the child who has been bullied.
7. Behavioural interventions and consequences are applied for the child who has bullied in line with the school's behaviour policy.
8. Restorative approaches may be used where appropriate and safe.
9. Incidents involving protected characteristics are recorded as prejudicial bullying.
10. Safeguarding procedures are followed if there is a risk of significant harm.
11. Online or AI-generated content may be reported to relevant platforms or agencies.

Monitoring and review procedures

The headteacher monitors incidents and reports patterns or concerns to governors.

Governors review the policy annually and ensure compliance with statutory guidance.

The school pays particular attention to bullying involving:

- race or ethnicity
- disability or SEND
- gender or gender identity
- sexual orientation
- religion or belief
- online or AI-generated harm

The School's policy will be reviewed:

- annually,
- when required by the Local Authority or DfE,
- or when emerging risks or safeguarding updates necessitate changes.

Ratified by: *David Bower*
Headteacher

Date: April 2026