

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY ANTI- BULLYING POLICY

Developed:

Revised: October
2018

Review Date:
October 2020



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Our Approach to Bullying

At Blackfriars, all behaviours are underpinned by PRIDE, our school motto. This stands for:-

Pride in our appearance and in all that we achieve

Respect for ourselves, others and our environment

Independence skills

Determination to succeed

Enjoyment of learning and life

We consider bullying to be disrespectful behaviour which contravenes our school code encapsulated in the PRIDE motto.

Bullying, both verbal and physical, will not be tolerated at Blackfriars. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent it happening and this policy contains guidelines for all members of the academy community.

Bullying can take place between pupils (peer on peer abuse) between pupils and staff or between staff. It can involve individuals or groups and be face to face, indirect or use a range of cyber-bullying methods.

There are potential vulnerabilities in particular groups of children, for example; pupils with special needs, looked after children, children from minority ethnic backgrounds, children with disabilities and traveler children.

In our academy pupils have a right to feel respected, welcome, safe and happy. In our academy we will not tolerate any unkind actions or remarks even if these were not intended to hurt.

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated often over a period of time, making it difficult for the person concerned to defend themselves. Bullying can take many forms.

The 4 main types are:-

Physical – for instance, hitting, kicking, taking belongings

Verbal – for instance, name calling, insulting or racist remarks

Indirect – for instance, spreading unpleasant stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups

Cyber – for instance, using technology to facilitate bullying e.g. text messages, e-mail and social networking websites

Although resolving conflict by resorting to fighting is not acceptable, it is not bullying if two pupils of similar power and strength fight or quarrel.

Aims

- we aim to prevent bullying at Blackfriars Academy
- we aim to raise pupils' awareness of bullying behaviour and the anti-bullying policy
- we aim to reduce bullying by including proactive programmes within the curriculum
- we aim to challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for bullied pupils and help build an anti-bullying ethos in the school

Individuals can be targeted by bullies for a number of reasons, including:

- race/sex/gender/background
- new child in the academy
- child with family crisis
- timid children who may be on the fringes or outside a group

Bullies make life miserable for many children.

DfEE Definition of Bullying:

- it is deliberately hurtful behaviour
- it is repeated often over a period time
- it is difficult for those who are being bullied to defend themselves

Individuals may choose to bully others because they :

- have been / are a victim of violence
- have been / are bullied at home
- enjoy power/creating fear
- have difficulties in expressing their feelings / have very specific needs
- are coping with behaviour they have seen at home, in school, in the community or on TV
- are unhappy
- are feeling 'peer pressure'
- are insecure
- have low self esteem

Bullying occurs in children from all backgrounds, cultures, races, sexes and ages with a range of needs.

General Statements

- some victims are also bullies
- some victims are treated as culprits
- those who witness bullying and do not act are condoning bullying and becoming part of bullying

Early Signs of Distress

- withdrawal
- deterioration of work
- spurious illness
- isolation
- desire to remain with adults
- erratic attendance
- general unhappiness/anxiety/fear
- late arrival for the start of the day
- bed wetting
- crying themselves to sleep
- unexplained cuts, scratches, bruises
- unexplained missing possessions

Framework For Anti-Bullying Campaign

Prevention is better than cure so at Blackfriars Academy we will:

- be vigilant for signs of bullying
- always take reports of bullying seriously and investigate them thoroughly.

Children are encouraged to report all incidents of bullying to a Peer Mentor or to an adult. These will then be referred to the Class Teacher / Teaching Assistant.

In the Exploratory and Questioning pathways, staff will use the curriculum to:

1. increase awareness of different types of bullying.
2. help them to develop strategies to combat all types of bullying.
3. ensure that all pupils know how to report bullying; know how to get help and be confident that the response to bullying is effective.
4. be encouraged to develop positive values and attitudes such as tolerance, kindness and respect.
5. use discussion and role play to explore issues related to bullying and to give individual children confidence to deal with bullying.
6. use proactive systems and procedures which promote an inclusive, supportive ethos and positive relationships whereby differences are acknowledged and celebrated.

If the incident is not too serious, a 'problem solving' approach may help. The adult tries to remain neutral and deliberately avoids direct, closed questions which might be perceived as accusatory or interrogational in style. He or she makes sure each pupil has an opportunity to talk and keeps the discussion focused on finding a solution and stopping the bullying from recurring. The teacher/ TA can aim to help the pupils find their own solution to the personal disagreement, and also discuss with them how their proposals will be put into action. A follow-up meeting with the pupils can find out whether their solution has been effective or not.

Responding to incidents must be done in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the victim.

A record must be kept of the incident – date – time – place – names of children involved and their accounts of what happened. Older pupils may be able to write these themselves.

Serious incidents must be reported to the Principal or a member of the senior management team via SIMS.

Persistent bullies will be referred to the Clinical Psychologist for an anti-bullying course designed to develop their understanding of the consequences of their actions on the victim. They may also have a fixed term exclusion imposed and in very serious cases, this may lead to a permanent exclusion.

Any disciplinary procedures applied must be used fairly and consistently and take into account the level and type of Special Educational Need (SEN).

SIMS data is used to evaluate the effectiveness of the anti-bullying work carried out across the academy. This data is shared with the whole academy community. Improvements should be highlighted and celebrated.

Duty staff should always:

- ensure pupils are supervised at playtimes and lunchtimes.
- patrol secluded areas such as toilets, corridors and doorways.
- observe pupils' play patterns and relationships – note children who appear isolated or unhappy and inform the class teacher.
- investigate every allegation of bullying.
- Encourage students to use peer mentors

We encourage proactive academy systems and procedures which promote an inclusive, supportive ethos and positive relationships, within which differences are acknowledged and accepted.

These are:

- celebration assemblies
- team building
- creative and performing arts
- choir
- drama / PSHE workshops 'drop down' days
- sports / fun day
- charity / fundraising events
- personalised curriculum
- residential opportunities

To ensure that the academy community is kept aware of and understands the policy and their responsibilities, time will be allocated at staff meetings/ Student of Concern meetings for discussion. This will include review times or when the policy is changed.

Parents / Carers

Parents / Carers of both the victim and the bully will be informed. Staff will undertake to give feedback to parents / carers on the steps taken. Involvement of parents / carers at an early stage is essential. If things have not gone well, the problems will be further analysed. There is the possibility of outside agency involvement. Parents / carers are kept informed at all stages. Parents / carers will be made aware of the complaints procedure.

Blackfriars Academy works in partnership with *County services such as police, health service, families first and organisations to reduce bullying and promote safer communities.*

The student council will have opportunities to review the policy at an appropriate level so that they are able to make their own contributions if required.

Changes can be made as required but will need ratification by the Academy Council following a consultation period.

The policy reflects the Children's Act 1989; The Inspection Act 2006 , Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 and The Equality Act 2010.

This policy will be reviewed every two years as a minimum.

The whole academy community is jointly responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented on a day to day basis.

Evaluation, review and the development of policy and procedures is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership team and the SCIPr Coordinator

UPDATED October 2018

DATE: October 2018

RATIFIED BY ACADEMY COUNCIL

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