

# **CREETING ST MARY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## **Anti-bullying Policy**

Date of Policy	September 2025
Review Date	September 2027
Head Teacher's signature	Mrs C Friar
Chair of Governors' signature	Mrs M Brame

Bullying is action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally and which is not an isolated incident. We firmly believe that no-one deserves to be a victim of bullying because everybody has the right to be treated with respect. We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety.

We do all we can to prevent bullying at our school, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable and children are encouraged to talk to adults before minor disagreements become major problems. It is rare for incidents of bullying to occur but if it does, we take immediate action as soon as we know about it. Pupils and parents should be assured that both the victim and the bully will be supported when bullying is reported. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving and to understand the consequences of their actions.

### **Signs and Symptoms**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

## **The role of governors**

The governing body supports the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

The governing body responds within ten school days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the headteacher and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

## **The role of the headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying.

The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.

The headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school.

The headteacher ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.

The headteacher creates an atmosphere of mutual support and praise for success, aiming to make bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

## **The role of the teacher**

Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the headteacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.

We keep an anti-bullying logbook in the headteacher's office where we record incidents of bullying that occur in school or on the children's way to or from school. If any adult witnesses an act of bullying, they should ensure the event is recorded in the log book.

If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the headteacher.

We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the headteacher may contact external support agencies such as the social services.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

Activities are organised during Anti-Bullying Week to raise awareness around the school and we take a preventative stance by discussing and planning activities in PSHE and other lessons.

### **The role of parents**

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately.

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

The headteacher reports to governors annually the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy, noting trends such as bullying with regard to gender, age and ethnic background.

**HELP ORGANISATIONS:**

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)

<http://www.ace-ed.org.uk/>

Children's Legal Centre

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/>

KIDSCAPE

**020 7730 3300**

[info@kidscape.org.uk](mailto:info@kidscape.org.uk)

Family Lives (formerly Parentline)

**0808 800 2222**

Bullying Online

[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk) or Family Lives

helpline

Youth Access

**01473341800**

Childline

**0800 1111**

Visit the Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) for further support, links and advice.

For a copy of Kidscape's free booklets "*Stop Bullying*" and others, order on-line from the Kidscape website.

Other useful websites:

[www.saferinternet.com](http://www.saferinternet.com) [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/yourcommunity-and-](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/yourcommunity-and-safety/stayingsafe-online)

[safety/stayingsafe-online](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/yourcommunity-and-safety/stayingsafe-online)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)