# Anti-Bullying & Cyberbullying Policy

**Our Aim and Purpose**

Bullying is unacceptable and can have severe consequences on a student's well-being and educational experience. We are committed to preventing bullying and ensuring students feel safe and supported while studying in the UK. This policy aims to ensure a consistent response to bullying incidents and to create a safe learning environment.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To prevent bullying from occurring.

- To respond effectively and promptly when bullying occurs and provide necessary support to those affected.

- To inform staff, students, and parents about their roles in preventing and addressing bullying.

**Definition of Bullying**

Bullying is any deliberate behaviour intended to cause distress, repeated over time, and involving an imbalance of power. It can manifest in various forms:

- Physical: Hitting, pushing, damaging property, or forcing someone to do something.

- Verbal: Teasing, name-calling, or making derogatory comments.

- Indirect: Spreading rumours, social exclusion, or manipulating relationships.

- Cyberbullying: Bullying via electronic means, including social media, messaging apps, emails, and online gaming.

**Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is an increasing concern and includes:

- Threatening or abusive messages.

- Sharing embarrassing or offensive images/videos.

- Exclusion from online groups or games.

- Spreading false rumors online.

- Impersonation or hacking accounts to humiliate others.

**Identifying Signs of Bullying**

Bullying can have serious effects on students, including:

- Emotional distress, anxiety, or depression.

- Withdrawal from social situations and reluctance to attend school.

- Unexplained injuries or damaged belongings.

- Sudden changes in behavior, eating, or sleeping patterns.

- Increased secrecy regarding online activities.

We encourage parents, guardians, and staff to be vigilant and report any concerns immediately.

**Our Commitment to Preventing and Responding to Bullying**

We will:

- Work with schools and partner organizations to identify and address all forms of bullying.

- Promote emotional and social resilience among students.

- Ensure that vulnerable students receive support to prevent them from becoming victims or perpetrators of bullying.

- Provide immediate assistance to students experiencing bullying and involve them in decision-making regarding resolutions.

- Inform the school and relevant safeguarding authorities when bullying involves child protection concerns.

- Keep parents and guardians informed of incidents and interventions.

- Involve external agencies, such as the police or child protection services, if necessary.

Responding to Cyberbullying:

- We will act immediately upon receiving reports of cyberbullying.

- Encourage students to retain evidence (e.g., screenshots) to aid investigations.

- Work with schools and online platforms to remove offensive material.

- Inform the police if a criminal offense has been committed.

**Reporting and Investigation Procedures**

- Any concerns should be reported to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** immediately.

- Reports can be made in person, via email, or through the online reporting system.

- All disclosures will be documented, and an action plan will be developed in collaboration with the school and parents.

- If a student is at risk of significant harm, the case will be escalated to social services or law enforcement.

- In cases involving homestays, alternative accommodation will be arranged if necessary.

**Support and Intervention**

- Victims of bullying will receive emotional support and practical guidance to rebuild confidence.

- Perpetrators will be educated on the consequences of bullying and provided with behaviour management support.

- Schools and parents will work collaboratively to ensure bullying does not recur.

**Safeguarding and Online Safety**

We encourage the use of online safety measures, including:

- Parental controls and content filters.

- Educating students on responsible internet use.

- Regular monitoring of online interactions.

Staff, parents, and guardians should access NSPCC's **Keeping Children Safe Online** resources for further guidance.

**Conclusion**

Bullying, including cyberbullying, will not be tolerated. By working together, we can ensure a safe and positive environment for all students. Any incidents must be reported promptly to allow for timely intervention and resolution.

This policy reviewed on 3rd April 2025, next review date is 2nd April 2026.