

# BEAL VALE

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*Primary School*



## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

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## **Statement of General Aims of the School**

The Governors and Staff of Beal Vale Primary School believe that we provide the vital transition from home to the outside world, and another step in the learning process which begins the moment a child is born. We believe that Learning is for Life.

Our school motto is:

*Learning is for Life, Enjoy the Journey!*

We hope to lay the foundation for academic learning, fostering a love of knowledge and a desire to achieve. We seek to provide a setting that gives all children the best possible learning opportunities, matched to their individual needs, within a happy and safe environment.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all.

We recognise and value diversity within our school, community and the wider world.

Whilst academic achievement is important, we recognise our role in developing the “whole child”. Therefore we aim to promote not just intellectual growth but his/her physical, social, moral, spiritual, emotional, creative and aesthetic development, as well as raising self-esteem, encouraging a sense of responsibility, initiative, and self-discipline.

As a School we continually strive to improve and aim to prepare our pupils to make a positive and responsible contribution to life in our ever-changing and increasingly technological world. We aim to develop a strong partnership with parents and encourage all our pupils to develop as citizens of the school and wider community.

### **Rational**

That every child has the right to feel safe in school and enjoy their education without the threat of bullying behaviour. Our approach is to build the children’s self-esteem and confidence and for our approach to be consistent across the school. We intend that the policy is clearly understood and shared by all, children, staff and parents.

The anti bullying policy takes its place within the general aims of the school. It has close links to the SEAL, Child Protection, Behaviour, Anti-racism and PSHE policies.

### **The government’s definition of bullying is:**

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school’s first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen 24/7, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

### **What are the different types of bullying?**

Bullying has many characteristics. These include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging and emailing, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from

groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. All of these types of characteristics can be grouped into the following –

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture,
- Bullying related to special educational needs or disabilities,
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions,
- Bullying related to sexual orientation,
- Bullying related to home circumstances and
- Sexist or sexual bullying.

Beal Vale Primary School will accept none of the above behaviours from staff or pupils.

### **Beal Vale Primary School Procedure:**

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too – that is why they bully. If bullying is suspected we will:

- Talk to the suspected victim, and any witnesses individually using procedures and questions.
- Identify the bully and talk about what has happened, to discover why they became involved.
- Make it clear that bullying is not tolerated.
- If the bully owns up then sanction procedures outlined in the Behaviour Policy will be followed.
- Incidents of bullying are recorded in the School Incident Log and kept in the Head Teachers office.
- Keep an informal log of incidents if there are concerns
- Involve all parties together to discuss the issues if agree by all parties
- Allow children time to sort things out.
- Support & empower children to resolve the conflict & understand their role in the issues
- Establish an agreement between the children where needed inform parents
- Follow up with further discussions with individuals as and when appropriate
- When necessary support children individually or together
- If the incidents persist and are causing a health and safety issue then the Head Teacher could instigate exclusion procedures (see Behaviour Policy)

### **Prevention**

Beal Vale Primary School believes that bullying should not start. School staff proactively gather intelligence about issues between pupils which might provoke conflict and have strategies to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. This might involve talking to pupils about issues of difference, perhaps in lessons, through dedicated events or projects, or through assemblies. Staff themselves will be able to determine what will work best for their pupils, depending on the particular issues they need to address.

### **Prevention & strategies to reinforce Beal Vale Primary School's Policy on Anti-bullying**

- Anti bullying week
- Children are made aware of the strategies to deal with low level issues and what to do in different situations including situations of cyber-bullying.
- Children participate in role play work in class as part of PSHE and SEAL
- Making use of curriculum opportunities to raise pupil awareness e.g. through PSHE, cross curricula themes, drama, story writing and literature
- A whole school reward system
- Good quality role models
- Adult modelling of appropriate response to a wide range of scenarios

- Children & parents have a good knowledge of the procedure/policy
- Children have a clear understanding of their rights & responsibilities
- E-safety frequently discussed and taught. Embedded ICT policy including Esafety and responsible use.
- Adults to deal with a situation, even if minor. Talking to the children may prevent the situation escalating.

### **The role of governors**

- The governing body supports the Head Teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors about the effectiveness of school's anti-bullying policy.
- If parent is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident, they should follow the school complaints procedure by initially contacting the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the Head Teacher. If they are still concerned, they should contact the Chair of Governors.

### **The role of the Head Teacher**

- It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to implement the school Anti-bullying Policy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and nonteaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The Head Teacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.
- The Head Teacher ensures that all children know that bullying is unacceptable behaviour.
- The Head Teacher ensures that all staff, including midday supervisors, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- The Head Teacher leads the school in making our vision a reality, where all members of the learning community nurture, value, respect and care for each other.

### **The role of all staff**

- All forms of bullying are taken seriously, and proactive measures are taken to prevent it from taking place.
- All adults to deal with situations quickly and by using methods to prevent situations escalating.
- All adults to follow up what they have said e.g. keeping and eye, follow up discussion etc.
- Teachers are responsible for recording of all incidents of bullying that happen in their class, and that they are aware of in the school. If a child is being bullied or is bullying others, the class teacher will inform the child's parents and the Head Teacher.
- When any bullying taking place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately, in accordance with Beal Vale Primary Schools procedures, including counseling and support for both the victim and perpetrator of the bullying.
- All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.
- A range of methods are used to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all.

### **The role of parents**

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy. We ask parents to:

- Look out for unusual behaviour in your children – for example, they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their usual standard.

- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with, etc.
- If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform school immediately. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- If a child has bullied your child, please do not approach that child on the playground or their parents or involve an older child to deal with the bully.
- Please inform school immediately and we will deal with it following the school procedures.
- It is important that you advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse!
- Tell your child that it is not their fault that they are being bullied.
- Reinforce the school's policy concerning bullying and make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help.
- If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately. Remember incidents are confidential, do not discuss them with other parents on the playground. Speak to school staff if you have concerns.

If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately. Remember incidents are confidential, do not discuss them with other parents on the playground. Speak to school staff if you have concerns. Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school. If parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident, they should follow the school complaints procedure by initially contacting the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the Head Teacher. If they are still concerned, they should contact the Chair of Governors.

## **The Role of Children**

### **What Can Children Do If They Are Being Bullied?**

Each term or when incidents occur, class teachers will discuss bullying and reinforce the following strategies:

- Remember that your silence is the bully's greatest weapon.
- Tell yourself that you do not deserve to be bullied and that it is wrong.
- Be proud of who you are. It is good to be individual.
- Try not to show that you are upset or scared. It is hard, but a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- Stay with a group of friends/people. There is safety in numbers.
- Be strong inside – say "No!". Walk confidently away. Go straight to a teacher or member of staff.
- If you are getting emails, texts or messages that make you feel uncomfortable please save them and show them to an adult. Do not respond to them.
- Fighting back may make things worse – don't do it.
- Generally it is best to tell an adult you trust straight away. You will get immediate support.
- Teachers will take you seriously and will deal with the bullies in a way which will end the bullying and will not make things worse for you.

### **What do you do if You Know Someone Is Being Bullied?**

- Tell an adult immediately.
- Teachers will deal with the bully without getting you into trouble.
- Do not take direct action yourself.

## **Monitoring and review**

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Head Teacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look

out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs. This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's review cycle, or earlier if necessary.

### **Bullying off the School Premises**

Beal Vale Primary School is not directly responsible for bullying off the school premises; however, if the incident is reported to the school staff it will be investigated and acted upon, and this may include informing parents and if appropriate to notify the police.

If a child from Beal Vale Primary School is involved in a bullying incident with a pupil from another school we will liaise with the other school to ensure that there is no reoccurrence. Where possible, Beal Vale will support pupils who have been bullied, especially on their way to or from school, by pupils from another school or by other persons.

The following steps should be taken.

- Talk to the Head Teacher of another school whose pupils are bullying off school premises.
- Talk to the Police about problems on the local streets.
- Talk to pupils about how to avoid or handle bullying situations.

### **Bullying Directed Towards Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability**

Beal Vale Primary School will not tolerate bullying against anyone because of his or her race, gender, sexual orientation or disability. The school will take preventative action to reduce the likelihood of bullying incidents of this nature occurring. Stereotypical views are challenged and pupils learn to appreciate and view positively differences in others, whether arising from race, gender, ability or disability.

### **Racial Bullying/Harassment**

Racial bullying will not be tolerated in Beal Vale and will be treated severely. If a child receives verbal abuse, physical threats or attacks, or if a pupil brings racist literature into school, incites others to behave in a racist way or writes racist insults, the strategies in the Policy for Education for Ethnic Diversity will be implemented.

A full investigation will be carried out, recording incidents in the school incident book and on Oldham Councils system. Beal Vale has a duty to develop children's understanding of ethnic diversity issues and explore racial tolerance in PSHE and Citizenship lessons, in Religious Education lessons and in school assemblies.

Beal Vale Primary School guarantees confidentiality and support for those being bullied. Racial incidents are reported to the Governing Body and LA as required.

### **Sexual Bullying**

Sexual bullying has an impact on both genders. A sexual assault will lead to the exclusion of the perpetrator from Beal Vale. Sexual bullying is characterised by abusive name-calling, comments about appearance, attractiveness and emerging puberty, inappropriate and uninvited touching, sexual innuendoes and propositions (i.e. sexual harassment).

Beal Vale's strategies to deal with sexual bullying include:

- recording incidents in the incident book
- developing understanding of gender relations
- exploring sexism and sexual bullying in PSHE lessons
- using single-sex groups to discuss sensitive issues

- ensuring the school site is well supervised, especially in areas where children might be vulnerable
- implementing appropriate discipline procedures as appropriate.

### **Sexual Orientation**

Sexual bullying can also be related to sexual orientation. Children do not have to be homosexual or bi-sexual to experience such bullying.

Strategies to deal with such bullying include:

- Recording incidents in a separate incident book
- Awareness by staff that homophobic bullying can occur
- challenging homophobic language and explore pupils' understanding – they might not understand the impact.
- Guaranteeing issues will be handled sensitively and provide support for those being bullied.
- implement discipline procedures if the bullying warrants it.

### **Special Education Needs or Disabilities**

Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities might not be able to articulate experiences as fluently as other children. However, they are often at greater risk of being bullied, both directly and indirectly, and usually about their specific disability.

Beal Vale Primary School makes sure the behaviour of staff does not trigger bullying unintentionally. They should avoid undue attention towards SEN children compared with others, and should not make comments based on pupils' appearance or perceived character.

We try to make classroom activities and lessons sensitive to such children's needs. We teach assertiveness and other social skills and teach victims to say 'No' or to get help.

If the bullying is serious, Beal Vale undertakes a full investigation, including a full discussion with witnesses, recording incidents in the incident book and contacting parents. Discipline procedures are implemented.

High attainers, gifted or talented pupils can also be affected by bullying. Teachers should treat this as seriously as any other type of bullying.

### **Other Policies**

The Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy is one of the essential Safeguarding Policies:-

Child Protection Policy	Health and Safety Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy	Safe Use of the Internet Policy
Admissions Policy	Medicines Policy
Special Educational Needs Policy	The Home-School Agreement
Equal Opportunities Policy	Policy for promotion of Race Equality
Policy for prevention of Racial Harassment	Attendance Policy
The Disability Equality Scheme	Policy on the use of physical intervention
Child Protection and safeguarding policy	Data Protection Act
ICT Policy including eSafety	Foundation Stage Policy