



Anti-bullying & Cyber Bullying Policy

The Governors and staff of Lowton Church of England High School are committed to the provision of a high quality education in a Christian context. We aim to provide a school where we can live out our ethos of Caring, Learning and Succeeding on a daily basis. At the heart of the commitment is the notion of the uniqueness and infinite worth of the individual, that every person is valuable in the eyes of God.

This policy has been produced in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Education Needs Disability Act 2001, the SEND Code of Practice 2015 and the Children and Families Act 2014. It has been reviewed in accordance with all other school policies and related Acts.

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Person responsible	Heather Clare
Version	3

Introduction

At Lowton Church of England High School we are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment where all students can develop, grow, and thrive. Bullying of any form is not tolerated, and we strive to prevent it by promoting respect, kindness, and understanding among all members of our school community. As a Church of England school, we base our values on the teachings of Jesus Christ, promoting love, compassion, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their background, beliefs, or characteristics.

This policy aims to provide clear guidelines on how bullying will be addressed, how the school community will work together to prevent bullying, and the responsibilities of students, staff, and parents.

What is bullying?

The Wigan Children and Young People's Services Definition:

'Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It is not a one-off act of aggression but is repeated and makes the person who is being bullied, feel alone and helpless'.

Bullying can be done face to face, through third parties, or through sending messages or images by using various social media.

Bullying can take many forms. Listed below are many examples which students feel should be included in our policy.

- **Emotional:** This can include being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, gestures and taunts.
- **Physical:** This can include pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence, and can include stealing.
- **Racist:** This can include racial taunts, graffiti and gestures.
- **Sexual:** This can include unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments, including issues of sexuality.
- **Verbal:** This can include name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours and teasing.
- **Cyber:** This includes misuse of the internet, misuse of mobile texts and calls, misuse of all technology including cameras and videos. These include all Social Media platforms
- **Disability:** This includes focussing on a disability or a special educational need.

Dealing with bullying at Lowton C of E High School:

We believe that bullying is completely unacceptable. We have a duty to act swiftly on any report of bullying

Raising awareness:

- We work together as a school to raise awareness and understanding of all forms of bullying.
- Students are given the opportunity to develop skills for addressing bullying behaviour, through assemblies, from tutor time, the curriculum and by taking part in Anti Bullying Week.

Opportunities for students to seek help/advice:

- Students are encouraged to tell someone they trust as soon as possible.
- Students are regularly asked for their views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- All members of staff are available to assist any student and are expected to follow the Anti Bullying Policy.

Procedures:

- Students or parents are encouraged to report bullying to a member of staff. This may include the form tutor, Head of Year, Student Support Manager or any other trusted adult.
- Any reports of bullying will be taken seriously at all times and will be recorded on CPOMS and details will be recorded accurately.
- The Senior Pastoral Lead and Deputy Head will be made aware of all records of bullying reported through written records on CPOMS.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with sensitively. A record of all actions must be added to CPOMS.
- Appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible and the member of staff will ensure the student is safe.
- If necessary and appropriate, police may be consulted.
- The victim will be kept informed of the school's action.
- The victim will be supported by a mentor
- If appropriate counselling will be offered.
- The situation will be monitored.
- Where appropriate restorative work will take place
- Sanctions for bullying are varied and may include: detention, isolation, suspension, moving teaching groups (this list is an example and is not exhaustive)
- We will always try to involve parents and sometimes we will invite parents into school to discuss the situation.
- Any bullying against a protected characteristic will be logged appropriately and appropriate action will be taken to address discrimination.
- Reports are extracted on a termly basis to analyse trends and address any issues that arise.

Outcomes

- The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise and take part in restorative work.
- Other consequences may take place using a variety of school sanctions in accordance with the Behaviour Policy.
- In serious cases, internal exclusion, fixed term or even permanent exclusion may be considered.
- We will always try to reconcile students through the use of restorative work.
- After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- We will keep parents informed throughout the process.

Prevention of Bullying

- Promote a whole-school approach to bullying, involving students, staff, and parents.
- Provide regular lessons and assemblies on anti-bullying and the importance of respect, kindness, and tolerance.
- Embed values of respect, empathy, and inclusion across the curriculum, with particular focus on topics such as diversity, relationships, and personal well-being.
- Train staff to recognize the signs of bullying and to respond appropriately.
- Foster a positive school culture where students feel safe to report bullying without fear of retaliation.
- Encourage peer support through mentoring, student voice and the student ambassador programme.

General Advice to Staff

- Students should always be encouraged to share their feelings about bullying and to tell a trusted adult or friend if they are victims or know someone who is.
- Staff must listen to the victim and record the conversation on CPOMS..
- Staff should report the incident to the Head of Year/Student Support Managers as soon as possible, even if the incident has been dealt with.
- Staff should be aware of the safeguarding expectations of all adults working with children and young people.

General Advice to Students

- If you are being bullied it can sometimes help to keep a diary recording dates and times of incidents.

- Speak to someone you trust. This may be an adult or a friend or a prefect. You will be listened to and taken seriously.
- You will always be involved in the process of deciding what action to take to help stop the bullying and encouraged to share any worries that you may have.
- You will be given support by your Form Tutor, Head of Year or any other person you feel comfortable with.
- We will contact your parents so that they can also support you.
- If the bullying is electronic or cyber in nature, you must tell someone. You may even contact the Police. The Malicious Communications Act (1988) and the Communications Act (2003) makes this kind of activity illegal. Even though the bullying happens outside of school hours, the school will still be able to help by offering advice of who to contact.

General Advice to Parents

All parents and carers can expect to be kept informed of the school's anti-bullying work throughout the school year. Staff will do their best to address any concerns that you may have about bullying.

We ask that you co-operate with the school in supporting your child and promoting the message that bullying behaviour is not acceptable. If your child is being bullied please contact school as soon as possible to report your concerns. We will listen and support you and your child in dealing with the bullying.

If you visit our website the link to NSPCC has a lot of support and advice.

Bullying outside the school premises:

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it will be investigated and acted on as appropriate. This may include incidents off school site, on school or public transport, in the local area or anything involving the misuse of social media.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure its effectiveness. The school will gather feedback from students, staff, and parents and use this information to improve the approach to preventing and responding to bullying. Data on bullying incidents will be monitored, and trends will be analysed to help identify areas for improvement.

Conclusion

At Lowton Church of England High School we are committed to ensuring that bullying has no place in our school. By fostering an environment of respect, kindness, and understanding, we can help all our students to thrive in a safe and supportive setting. We believe in the dignity and worth of each individual and aim to nurture a community that reflects these values.

Helpful websites:

www.bullying.co.uk

www.antibullying.net

www.childline.org.uk

www.kidscape.co.uk

www.nspcc.co.uk