

Beckfoot Thornton Anti-Bullying Policy 2023

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This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It has also considered the DfE statutory guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” and ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’ guidance. The school have also read Childnet’s “Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools”. Also, the DfE research into anti-bullying practices has been utilized to help formulate this policy. Further information can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/approaches-to-preventing-and-tackling-bullying

Bullying can be defined as ‘the abuse of power in a physical, verbal or psychological form in order to cause discomfort or distress for gain or gratification’.

All members of the school have a right to be free from bullying. It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that the school experience takes place in a safe, caring and protective environment. Consequently, all pupils, parents / carers and staff should be aware that bullying is totally unacceptable at Beckfoot Thornton Academy. Therefore, it is everyone’s responsibility to inform a member of staff immediately if they feel this is happening. A member of the Beckfoot Thornton Pastoral or Safeguarding team will then act on this as a priority.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is negative behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group, either physically or emotionally. A one-off unpleasant comment, or action can be very hurtful, but it is not bullying. Bullying is action repeated over time.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g., hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic/Transphobic: because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Religious: unwanted behaviours due to religion or beliefs
- SEND: unpleasant targeted behaviours due to disability or need
- Verbal: name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e., camera and video facilities

Cyber Bullying

This is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets. Social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites and chat rooms such as Facebook, Xbox Live, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and other chat rooms can be great fun. Unfortunately, online bullying can happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so it can be particularly distressing. The misuse of social media resulting in (cyber) bullying is

taken very seriously by Beckfoot Thornton. Where necessary, the school will involve their Safer Schools Police Officer in all serious cases.

Bullying outside of school

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it takes place inside or outside of school. Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at the weekends or during the holidays, or in the wider community. The nature of cyber bullying means that it can impact on students' well-being beyond the school day. Staff, parents and carers, and students must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report and respond according to their responsibilities as outlined in this policy.

Derogatory language

Derogatory or offensive language is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. This type of language can take any of the forms of bullying listed in our definition of bullying. It will be challenged by staff and recorded and monitored on SIMS and follow up actions and sanctions, if appropriate, will be taken for students and staff found using any such language.

Prejudice-based incidents

A prejudice-based incident is a one-off incident of unkind or hurtful behaviour that is motivated by a prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views towards a protected characteristic or minority group. It can be targeted towards an individual or group of people and have a significant impact on those targeted. All prejudice-based incidents are taken seriously, promptly acted upon, and are recorded and monitored in school.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

A young person may indicate by signs or behaviour that they are being bullied. Adults should be aware of these signs and should investigate if a student:

- is suddenly very reluctant to use their normal method of travelling to school
- is very reluctant to go to school
- begins to truant
- starts to lack confidence
- becomes withdrawn
- attempts, or threatens suicide
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- frequently feels ill in the morning
- school grades decline
- arrives home with damaged uniform
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money

- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home hungry (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- has become unpleasant to other children or siblings
- stops eating or has sudden weight loss
- is very reluctant to discuss feelings
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous and jumpy when a cyber-message is received

These signs and symptoms may be indicative of bullying but could also simply be a result of other less concerning factors. However, any concerns should be raised ASAP and investigated to ensure the wellbeing of all students and their families.

What to do if you Suspect Bullying

- Discreetly inform the nearest member of staff
- Inform the Pastoral team
- Talk to a family member

Whatever you do, talk to an adult, and make sure staff at school become aware of the issue ASAP!

Reporting – Roles and Responsibilities

Staff: All school staff, both teaching and non-teaching have a duty to report bullying, to be vigilant to the signs of bullying and to play an active role in the school's efforts to prevent bullying. If staff are aware of bullying, they should reassure the students involved and inform a relevant member of the pastoral team.

Senior staff: The Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher have overall responsibility for ensuring that the antibullying policy is followed by all members of staff and that the school upholds its duty to promote the safety and wellbeing of all young people.

Parents and carers: Parents and carers should look out for potential signs of bullying such as distress, lack of concentration, feigning illness or other unusual behaviour. Parents and carers should tell their child not to retaliate and should support and encourage them to report the bullying. Parents and carers can report an incident of bullying to the school either in person, or by phoning or emailing the school office or a Year Team Leader or Senior Leadership Team link.

Students: Students should not take part in any kind of bullying and should watch out for potential signs of bullying among their peers. They should never be bystanders to incidents of bullying. If students witness

bullying, they should support the victim, encourage them to report the bullying and, if possible, accompany them to tell a trusted adult

What Will Happen When Next?

1. Once a member of staff has been informed of a concern, they will inform a relevant member of the Pastoral or Safeguarding team.
2. This will be logged on Sims and recorded using internal databases.
3. They will investigate this as a priority and will aim to do this as sensitively as possible.
4. A fair and accurate conclusion will be drawn as soon as possible from the investigation with actions being made in accordance with the 'Behaviour Protocols and Procedures 2023'.
5. Parents/carers will be informed at the earliest convenience of any conclusion. If investigations are ongoing, parents/carers should be informed by the end of the first day.
6. Where deemed necessary, our Safer School's Police Officer will also be informed.
7. Support will be given to the victim throughout.
8. Once relevant sanctions are finalised, support and guidance will also be provided to the 'bully' and their family.
9. The situation will then be monitored in the future and follow up meetings will occur.

Who gets bullied?

Anyone can be bullied. It is not that person's fault. Some people are particularly vulnerable at certain times - for example students new to school or those with special needs. Some people are targeted because of their appearance, gender, ethnic group, religion, sexual orientation, health or ability. There is never an excuse for bullying behaviour. There is nothing wrong with being different.

Raising Awareness of Bullying at Beckfoot Thornton

The school will use every opportunity to discuss and to raise awareness on issues of bullying. These will include:

- Tutorials
- Assemblies
- School Council
- Staff Meetings
- Parents'/Open Evenings
- Local School's Committee meetings
- Support & Challenge meetings
- Beckfoot Trust Climate for Learning meetings

Pupils and parents/carers will need to know that:

- They can talk confidentially to any member of staff
- All incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and will be acted upon sensitively
- The victim will be given full support and the parents/carers will be kept fully informed

- Action will be taken towards the perpetrator (to include counselling) and parents/carers will be kept fully informed
- All pupils and staff have a responsibility to prevent bullying, there are no innocent bystanders.

School will:

- Create a caring, controlled, and safe environment.
- Treat all information seriously, nothing is trivial as it may be central to that person's life.
- Report all incidents to the appropriate Safeguarding or Pastoral member of staff in order that an up-to-date file may be kept.
- Treat incidents sensitively to ensure that the victim does not feel either threatened or inadequate. The same consideration should also be shown towards the perpetrators.
- Be watchful for signs of anxiety, changed behaviour, and take appropriate action.

Useful contacts

School reception: 01274 881082

ChildLine 08001111

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 0300 011 5142

Children's Legal Centre 0120 671 4650

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0207 730 3300

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 0208 772 9900

Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk

Young people under the age of 18 who are being bullied, or who know someone who is being bullied can call the Childline Bullying Line on 0800 1111 for advice. This is a free service that is open Monday to Friday from 3.30pm - 9.30pm.

Outside of these hours you can call the main Childline number 24 hours a day on 0800 1111.