Aldwyn Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Policy Review	
Review Schedule	Annually
Implementation Date	Autumn 2026
Date of Next Review	Autumn 2027

Victorious Academies Trust

Success in education

Aldwyn Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy

Rationale

Everyone at Aldwyn Primary School has the right to feel welcome, happy and secure.

Bullying of any sort creates a barrier to achieving maximum potential and also prevents equality of opportunity. We believe it is everyone's responsibility to prevent this happening and this policy contains guidelines to support this ethos.

In this policy we aim to:

- enable all pupils to develop the personal skills necessary to deal with bullying if they encounter it
- enable pupils to recognise actions that may lead to bullying and therefore prevent bullying behaviour
- encourage pupils to take appropriate action if they see bullying behaviour
- promote positive strategies to combat bullying
- enable children to learn the difference between being kind, bothering and bullying

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour, Equality, Child Protection and E Safety policies.

Bullying is not acceptable at Aldwyn Primary School under any circumstances. The school believes that all pupils whatever their race, culture, gender, gender identity, faith, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual abilities have the right to:

- a safe and secure environment at school and on the way to and from school
- concentrate on their educational progress without fear of others
- feel welcome, secure and happy

Bullying is defined by the school as deliberately hurtful behaviour (which is repeated over a period of time). Anybody can be a victim of bullying. It can have an especially damaging effect to children's mental health and emotional wellbeing. Bullying may take a number of forms but there are three main types:

- Physical – Hitting, kicking, taking or damaging belongings
- Verbal – Name calling, insulting, racist, sexual, homophobic remarks etc.
- Psychological - ridicule or indirect action such as spreading unpleasant rumours about someone, inciting others to be cruel or encouraging others to isolate and ignore. This also includes cyber-bullying which can take place over social media, via text, emails, interactive games etc.

Bothering is defined by the school as unintentionally upsetting somebody, sometimes we might not mean to upset somebody but it happens and we might not have realised. This is all part of life and helps us to build resilience, solve problems and learn to get along with lots of different people.

Even though sometimes we might feel upset this is bothering behaviour and not bullying. Bothering might be in the form of:

- Fall outs with friends
- Disagreements
- Time apart or not getting on
- Friends wanting to play with other people
- Unintentionally saying something that upsets you

Roles & Responsibilities:

Pupils

- Be a good friend and never a bully
- Be kind, helpful, respectful, supportive and good listeners
- Follow the rules and be the best they can be
- Let everyone join in, share and take turns
- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Keep yourself safe
- Speak up and tell a member of staff or somebody at home if you or someone else is being bullied

Teachers/Staff

- Remain vigilant and be aware of signs that a child may be being a victim of bullying
- Listen to children and deal with the problem quickly and calmly
- Inform parent/carers
- Report incident/s on CPOMs monitoring system
- Follow up incident

Parent/Carers

- Remain calm and listen to their child
- Let their child know that they are right to tell someone
- Believe their child but be open minded in case there has been a misunderstanding
- Contact the class teacher or inclusion team as soon as possible
- Reinforce the message that fighting back is not the answer
- Reassure their child that they will work with school to stop the bullying

School

Deliver lessons and awareness of bullying during Anti Bullying week and throughout the year using the curriculum whenever possible to reinforce the ethos of the school and help children to develop strategies to combat bullying-type behaviour and promote positive friendships. The school will communicate and deliver this:

- through assemblies focussing on anti-bullying, healthy relationships, kindness etc.
- through pupil discussions where children get the opportunity to reflect on their own behaviours and that of others and discuss ways in which to better situations as a group.
- in class activities and PSHE sessions
- via newsletters to parents/carers
- through role play and drama techniques
- through school council and pupil voice

Children will be encouraged to report all incidents If an individual or a group of individuals feel they are being bullied, or have witnessed another child being bullied.

Reporting of incidents:

- Children will be encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to a member of staff within school or to inform a parent at home
- Parents are advised to report any incidents of bullying to the child's class teacher and or the inclusion team
- The Class teacher/inclusion team will look into the incident and record on CPOMs internal monitoring system
- If the incident is found to be bullying it will be reported to the head teacher and contact will be made to parents of all involved pupils

Out of school incidents:

The school encourages parents/carers to let them know of any out of school incidents so that the situation in school can be monitored. However, incidents out of school time, where the school would not have jurisdiction, cannot be dealt with by the school. If required, the school will liaise with the police where the matter has been referred by parents/carers to them.

Dealing with incidents:

All reported incidents are treated very seriously and fully investigated by the inclusion team and senior leadership team. Any incident of bullying is placed on file and action taken would include one or more of the following, depending on the severity of the incident:

- sincere apology
- sanctions as per behaviour policy
- a warning as to the consequences of a repeated offence
- behaviour intervention group
- parents/carers informed of the behaviour and of the school's concern
- meeting with the Head teacher
- internal or external exclusion

In addition, the victim will be provided with support and reassurance and he/she is told to inform the class teacher/inclusion team immediately should there be any further incident. It is also usual practice for parents/carers to be informed of the incident.

The school is also aware that some students involved in such matters may need more specialist help, and will use referral systems open to them as needed to refer students for additional support and/or provide information to support such referrals made through the health system.

The law

Some forms of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the police.

These include:

- violence or assault, theft, repeated harassment or intimidation, for example name calling, threats and abusive phone calls, emails or text messages, hate crimes. Call 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger.

Follow up of incidents & ongoing support

All parties are seen to check on the state of the relationship, and to reinforce support and reassurance for the victim.

The school is aware that some students involved in such matters need more specialist help, and will use referral systems open to them as needed to refer students for additional support and/or provide information to support such referrals made through the health system.
The school recognises that students will be at different stages of emotional development. For those struggling to cope with the demands of building the many different relationships needed to be socially adept, the school provides social skills programmes to improve social skills and build resilience. The school also provides an anger management programme for children that struggle to deal with their emotions.