



Introduction

The governing body of Astbury School acknowledges that it has the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of pupils and the standards of discipline employed at the school, and that it determines the general principles of behaviour and pupil conduct which are administered by the headteacher. Such principles include promoting self-control, showing love and kindness towards person and property, and expecting proper and courteous behaviour at all times.

It is recognised that achieving high standards and expectations with regard to pupil behaviour and conduct is a collective responsibility which governors, the headteacher, teachers, support staff and the children themselves must identify, provide and maintain.

Aims

- To provide an environment where children are given the foundation to flourish and live fruitful lives to ensure they have 1) a positive value of self and others 2) know that bullying will not be tolerated (* see appendix for definition of bullying) 3) are not afraid to talk to adults if they feel bullied .
- To promote the School's Christian values of love, self-control, peace and kindness throughout the policy.

Anti-bullying

"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, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences." (DfE Preventing and tackling bullying in schools – last updated July 2017)

In Astbury School, name-calling is the most common form of bullying, followed by being hurt or threatened with being hurt. More indirect forms of bullying include exclusion from the social group or having belongings hidden or taken.

In Astbury school bullying is rare. Ensuring that this remains the case is a high priority for governors, staff, parents / carers and children.

- We will continue to promote the partnership between home and school.
- We will regularly reinforce our home school agreement and school vision.
- We will ensure that all children know that there is no excuse for bullying and that such behaviour is not tolerated in a Christian school.
- We will ensure that all children know they can share their problems with adults in school, that they will be listened to and that appropriate actions will be taken.

Strategies for dealing with bullying

Most bullying takes place in playgrounds. Teachers are generally aware of children being pressurised or teased in class and it is important that such events are dealt with immediately.

Adults should look for warning signs in children, recognising the differences between play and confrontation:

- Is a child frowning, looking unhappy or angry?
- Is a child trying to get away from an aggressor?
- Is a child not taking turns?
- Is a child isolated?
- Is a child regularly crying?
- Does a child regularly complain about their treatment by others? (But be careful about drawing incorrect conclusions!).

If bullying is reported then the school will use the bullying investigation process and forms A-D from the Local Authority, and share these with parents.

Disciplining the bully

“Schools should apply disciplinary measures to pupils who bully in order to show clearly that their behaviour is wrong. Disciplinary measures must be applied fairly, consistently, and reasonably taking account of any special educational needs or disabilities that the pupils may have and taking into account the needs of vulnerable pupils. It is also important to consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves.” (DfE Preventing and tackling bullying in schools – last updated July 2017)

Measures to discipline bullies in Astbury School will be agreed on an individual basis in discussion with the head teacher, class teacher, child and parents.

Special educational needs

There are some children for whom this policy will require adaptation. These children may have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

We acknowledge that there will be occasions when children will require a ‘cool-off’ period and as such all staff will offer this opportunity. We will endeavour to work as closely as possible with the parents or carers of these children.

Monitoring

The headteacher will monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. The headteacher will report to the governing body on its effectiveness and, if necessary, make recommendations for further improvements.