



Melin Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

T Richards (Melin Primary School)

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Date agreed by Governing Body: 13th October 2021

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Signed: _____ (Chair of Governors)

Melin Primary School **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Beliefs and Values

At Melin Primary School we believe that the emotional wellbeing of the child, developed through a curriculum based on activity and experience is at the heart of learning.

Early childhood is an important time in a child's life in which many of the habits and attitudes are formed that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. With this in mind, we have high expectations that encourage good habits, promote ambition and positive attitudes to learning. This will enable the children to grow to be literate, numerate, digitally competent and independent life-long learners. They will be happy, healthy, safe and contribute creatively and ethically to their community, Wales and the world.

Aims of the Policy

This policy outlines what Melin Primary School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying. Melin Primary School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

Links with other school policies and practices

This policy links with several school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour and discipline policy
- Complaints policy
- Child protection policy
- Online safety and Acceptable Use Policies
- Curriculum policies, such as: PSHE, citizenship and SRE

Links to legislation

• There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- Rights, Respect, Equality: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools
- Human Rights Act 1998
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Education Act 2002
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008
- The Equality Act 2010
- Criminal offences legislation
- Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- The headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.
- Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- All staff, including: governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

Definition of bullying

Bullying can be defined as “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

Bullying can include name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.

This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.

Bullying is recognised by the school as being a form of peer on peer abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional development.

Forms and types of bullying covered by this policy

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including:

- Bullying related to physical appearance
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
- Physical bullying
- Emotional bullying
- Sexual bullying
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying
- Prejudicial bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics):
 - Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
 - Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
 - Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)

- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
- Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying
- Bullying against teenage parents (pregnancy and maternity under the Equality Act)

School ethos

The Melin Primary School community recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals. It can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing. By effectively preventing and tackling bullying our school can help to create a safe and disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Our Community:

- Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; this may include children with additional learning needs. Being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the antibullying policy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed at all stages.
- Will deal promptly with grievances regarding the school response to bullying in line with our complaints policy
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

Responding to bullying

The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision making, as appropriate.
- The headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.

- The Headteacher/DSL will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection policies.
- Sanctions, as identified within the school behaviour policy, and support will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as the police, if a criminal offence has been committed, or other local services including early help or Children's Social Services, if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
- Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the Headteacher will collaborate with other agencies to take appropriate action within the powers available to the school.
- Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with this policy and the school's behaviour policy.
- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures using My Concern. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - looking at use of the school systems;
 - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
 - Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
 - Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
 - Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
 - Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
 - Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.

The school will provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:

- advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
- providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists;
- helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

Supporting pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous pastoral support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the designated safeguarding lead, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include: working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling through the School Based Counselling Service, engaging with parents and carers.

Pupils who have perpetrated bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Sanctioning, in line with school behaviour/discipline policy; this may include official warnings, removal of privileges and fixed-term or permanent exclusions.

Supporting adults

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of adults, including staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher.
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools' behaviour and discipline policy, following guidance from the Local Authority Legal Department.
- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.

- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

Adults who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher to establish the concern.
- Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

Preventing bullying

Environment

The whole school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer on peer abuse).
- Recognises the potential for children with additional learning needs and disabilities to be disproportionately impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related difference appropriate to their age and understanding
- Challenge practice and language (including 'banter') which does not uphold the school values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others, remembering and embodying that 'Manners Makyth Man'.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively create "safe spaces" for vulnerable children and young people.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to consider the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.

- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools' attention, which involves or affects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully, and those who have been bullied.

Education and Training

The school community will:

- Provide information for all staff, including teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as through displays, assemblies, peer support, playground buddies and the school council, etc.
- Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
- Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

Involvement of pupils

We will:

- Involve pupils in policy writing and decision making, to ensure that they understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they play in preventing bullying.
- Canvas children's views on the extent and nature of bullying as part of school self-evaluation procedures.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

Involvement and liaison with parents and carers

We will:

- Take steps to involve parents and carers in develop policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of bullying.
- Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats, including via the school website
- Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively, to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

Monitoring and review: putting policy into practice

The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning. The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate and will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes.

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2024.

T. Richards
September 2021

Where to find further help and advice

Bullying

Bullies Out – Anti-bullying charity based in Wales that works with individuals, schools, colleges, youth and community settings. E-mentors offer online support (e-mail mentorsonline@bulliesout.com).

www.bulliesout.com

e-mail: mail@bulliesout.com

Anti-Bullying Alliance – Information for schools, parents/carers and children and young people on all aspects of bullying.

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Kidscape – Anti-bullying charity that runs workshops for children and young people who have been bullied.

www.kidscape.org.uk

The Diana Award – Trains young anti-bullying ambassadors to help others.

www.antibullyingpro.com

Helplines and support services

General

Samaritans – Charity dedicated to reducing feelings of isolation and disconnection that can lead to suicide. E-mail, live chat and other services available.

www.samaritans.org

Tel: 116 123 (English-language line – free to call)

Tel: 0808 164 0123 (Welsh-language line – free to call)

Rethink Mental Illness – Advice and information for people with mental health issues.

www.rethink.org

Tel: 0300 500 0927

Mencap Cymru – Advice and information about learning disabilities.

<https://wales.mencap.org.uk>

Tel: 0808 8000 300

Children and young people

Meic – Information advice and advocacy for young people.

www.meiccymru.org

Childline – Provide counselling for anyone aged under 19 in the UK.

www.childline.org.uk

Tel: 0800 1111

Challenging bullying

Rights, respect, equality – statutory guidance for governing bodies

Kooth – Online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people.

www.kooth.com

CALL (Community Advice and Listening Line) – Emotional support and information/literature on mental health and related matters for the people of Wales.

www.callhelpline.org.uk

Parents/carers

Family Lives – Support and advice for parents/carers.

Tel: 0808 800 2222

ParentZone – Support and advice for parents/carers.

www.parentzone.org.uk

YoungMinds – Support to help improve the mental health of children and young people.

www.youngminds.org.uk

Tel: 0808 802 5544 (parents'/carers' helpline)

Schools/professionals

Professionals Online Safety Helpline – For those working with children and young people who require help for an online issue.

Tel: 0344 381 4772

e-mail: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk

Advice and support networks

General

Internet Watch Foundation – For reporting online images of child sexual abuse.

www.iwf.org.uk

Victim Support – Report hate crime in Wales.

www.reportheate.victimsupport.org.uk

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) – If child sexual abuse or exploitation is suspected.

www.ceop.police.uk

NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

www.nspcc.org.uk

Tel: 0808 800 5000

Mental Health Matters Wales – Works with people who have a mental health-related issue.

www.mhmbcb.com/index.htm

Children and young people

Heads Above The Waves – Support for children and young people suffering depression or self-harming.

<http://hatw.co.uk/straight-up-advice>

Parents/carers

Internet Matters – Advice on online issues for parents/carers and children and young people.

www.internetmatters.org.uk

Resources for schools

EACH (Educational Action Challenging Homophobia) – Provide services to inspire lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans equality.

<https://each.education>

Show Racism The Red Card – Training and resources to tackle racism in society.
www.theredcard.org

The ACE Support Hub Wales – Toolkit for school staff on ACEs.

www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/88504

South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) – Self-evaluation tool for schools and guidance.

www.swgfl.org.uk

Other

School Beat – All Wales School Liaison Core Programme.

www.schoolbeat.org/en/parents/know-the-programme/national-events/what-is-the-all-wales-school-liaison-core-programme

Children in Wales – www.childreninwales.org.uk/our-work/bullying

Children’s Commissioner for Wales – www.childcomwales.org.uk

Time to Change Wales – Campaign for young people, which aims to change attitudes towards mental health, ending stigma and discrimination.

www.timetochangewales.org.uk/en/mental-health-stigma/young-people/wecanwewill

Online issues

Childnet International – Support on all aspects of online safety.

www.childnet.com