



Blackpool Aspire Academy

We recognise that:

- Bullying is “behaviour, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group, physically or emotionally”. Safe from bullying in youth activities, DCSF 2009.
- One person or a group can bully others.
- Bullying can occur either face to face between individuals or groups or online, using information technology, such as computers or mobile phones.
- Bullying can include:
 - verbal teasing or making fun of someone;
 - excluding children from games and conversations;
 - pressurising other children not to be friends with the person who is being bullied;
 - spreading hurtful rumours or passing round inappropriate photographs/images/drawings;
 - shouting at or verbally abusing someone;
 - stealing or damaging someone’s belongings;
 - making threats;
 - forcing someone to do something embarrassing, harmful or dangerous;
 - harassment on the basis of race, gender, sexuality or disability;
 - physical or sexual assault (although all sexual incidents and all but very minor physical incidents constitute abuse and must be dealt with in accordance with child protection procedures).
- Bullying causes real distress. It can affect a person’s health and development and, at the extreme, can cause significant harm.
- People are often targeted by bullies because they appear different from others.
- We all have a role to play in preventing and putting a stop to bullying.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To prevent bullying from happening in our organisation, as much as possible.
- When bullying does happen, to make sure it is stopped as soon as possible and that those involved receive the support they need.
- To provide information to all staff, volunteers, children and their families about what we should all do to prevent and deal with bullying.

We will seek to prevent bullying by:

1. Developing a code of behaviour that sets out the “dos” and “don’ts” in terms of how all members of Blackpool Aspire Academy are expected to behave, both in face-to-face contact and online.
2. Assisting new members of the academy community through caseworker support.
3. Holding regular discussions with staff, volunteers, children, young people and families who are linked to Blackpool Aspire Academy to ensure that they understand our anti-bullying policy. These discussions will focus on:
 - everyone’s shared responsibility to look after each other and uphold the behaviour code;
 - giving people a chance to discuss their feelings and be listened to;
 - respecting the fact that we are all different;
 - making sure that no one is without friends;
 - dealing with problems in a positive way;
 - identifying the most appropriate form of support that is available.
4. Ensuring that complaint and escalation procedures are clear.
5. Making sure that staff, volunteers, children and young people, and parents and carers have clear information about our anti-bullying policy, complaints procedure, code of behaviour and anti-bullying procedure.
6. Appointing Anti-bullying Ambassadors to work with students across the Academy to promote a zero-tolerance culture.
7. Identifying a lead teacher to coordinate and support the Anti-bullying Ambassador team.
8. Providing safe spaces (discovery zone, student services, lunch clubs) for students to access.

When bullying occurs, we will respond to it by:

- Having easily accessible support for students and families
- Having a clear anti-bullying procedure in place;
- Providing support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of bullying, including racial, sexist, homophobic and sexual bullying;
- Addressing the issue from the point of view of the person being bullied, the bully, any bystanders and Blackpool Aspire Academy as a whole;
- Reviewing the plan developed to address the bullying, in order to ensure that the problem has been resolved;
- Avoiding any punishments that make the individuals concerned seem small, or look or feel foolish in front of others.
- Ensuring that all incidents are reported accordingly.
- Quickly addressing any issues that are reported.

- Dealing with incidents consistently.
- Ensuring that everyone involved provides a written account where appropriate and provides copies of any relevant evidence, such as emails, screenshots etc.
- Ensuring that any relevant information is documented in the student files.
- Sanctioning perpetrators appropriately and signposting relevant support with the intention of preventing any reoccurrence and helping them to understand the error in their actions. We recognise that bullying may often be a manifestation of the perpetrators' own problems, which the Academy will endeavour to offer support on as it does for all students.
- Increasing the sanctions issued to any student who is a persistent perpetrator, which may include exclusion from the Academy.
- Using a restorative justice system for victims and perpetrators which should be facilitated by the student caseworkers and, where relevant, the Academy PCSO.
- Arranging support for victims and/or perpetrators from outside agencies. These could for instance include council youth workers

Staff training

- The Academy advises staff and the Academy Council of their responsibility to intervene in and/or report bullying incidents.
- The Academy ensures that all staff are sufficiently equipped to deal with bullying, including identification of potential signs of bullying such as victims being persistently late, having mysteriously lost belongings, being careless in their work, appearing isolated from peers or acting withdrawn.
- All members of the Student Support team are trained in restorative justice.
- Members of the Student Support team have had CEOP training regarding cyber bullying and deliver this to assemblies and as part of the PSHE curriculum carried out in form tutor time, assisted by the PCSOs.
- Our Academy motto, "Don't assume we know", is displayed on the form room notice boards and form tutors refer to this regularly to keep it in the minds of the students.

Promoting anti-bullying behaviour

The Academy:

- Makes transition arrangements for new pupils.
- Actively promotes anti-bullying through tutor time, assemblies, Aspirational days and student voice.
- Ensures that areas where bullying may occur outside of class time are adequately staffed.
- Maintains a zero-tolerance approach to violence.

- Provides a 'virtual' anti-bullying form (Tootoot), managed by the Deputy Principal.
- Trains students as anti-bullying ambassadors ('Bully Blasters')
- Offers students with an interest in anti-bullying the opportunity to access relevant external courses such as the Diana Trust Anti-Bullying sessions.
- Completes regular surveys with pupils to obtain their opinions on the success of anti-bullying work.
- Celebrates differences and promotes respect.
- Encourages and rewards good behaviour.

Parental involvement

- The Academy promotes a whole-Academy approach to bullying by communicating this policy to staff, students, parents, and the wider community.
- At the annual New Parents evening in June and at all mid-year admissions parents are informed of the Academy anti-bullying practices verbally by the Deputy Principal and in the form of a handout.
- Parents reporting bullying incidents either by telephone or email (using the information on the website) are dealt with promptly and feedback on progress and actions are provided within 24 hours, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Parents of perpetrators are contacted and their support sought to prevent further incident.
- The police are consulted if necessary.
- Initial contact with home is via Student Caseworkers. Where relevant, matters can be referred on to the Assistant Principal with responsibility for behaviour or any other senior leader - ultimately to the Principal, Executive Principal, and Academy Council.
- There is a link on the Academy's website giving parents/carers advice and answering FAQs.
- The website has a section on e-safety, including cyber-bullying, aimed at parents/carers.
- Information is given via handouts to new Year 7 parents/carers and to parents/carers and students at non-routine admissions.
- Parentline Plus ([www.parentline plus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)) is recommended as a source of information and advice.
- Parent e-safety updates are sent out with newsletters and are available on the website.

Monitoring and review

- Regular feedback is given to the Academy Council.
- Termly quantitative data is broken down by gender, ethnicity and SEN (including Gifted & Talented).
- This policy is reviewed annually.

Neill Oldham – Director of Student Services, Child Protection & SENDCo is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed every two years. The next review is due in:

NOVEMBER 2018