



Lake Haven School

Anti Bullying and Incidents of Hate Policy 2026/27

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Approved by	Alexandra Marshall
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This policy is based on DfE guidance "[Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)" July 2017 and supporting documents. It also takes into account the DfE statutory guidance "[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)" 2025. The school has read [Childnet's "Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools"](#).

1) Policy objectives:

- This policy outlines what Lake Haven School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying and hate crime.
- The policy has been adopted with the involvement of the whole school community.
- Lake Haven School is committed to developing an anti-bullying, inclusive and respectful culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

2) Links with other school policies and practices

This policy links with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Online Safety and Acceptable Use policies (AUP)
- GDPR policy
- Confidentiality Agreement form
- Curriculum policies, such as: PSHE, citizenship and computing
- Mobile phone and social media policies

3) Links to legislation

There are a number of 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):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988

- Public Order Act 1986

4) 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.
- School Proprietors: to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- All staff, including: proprietors, 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.

5) Definition of bullying

- Bullying is "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 can be a form of child on child abuse and can be emotionally abusive; it can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.

6) Forms of bullying

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

- Bullying related to race, religion, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability)
- Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions
- Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic bullying)

- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying

7) Definition of hate incidents

The police and Crown Prosecution Service have agreed a common definition of hate incidents.

They say something is a hate incident if the victim or anyone else think it was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on one of the following things:

- disability
- race
- religion
- transgender identity
- sexual orientation.

8) Types of hate incidents and bullying covered by this policy

Hate incidents can take many forms. Here are examples of hate incidents:

- verbal abuse like name-calling and offensive jokes
- harassment
- bullying or intimidation by children, adults, neighbours or strangers
- physical attacks such as hitting, punching, pushing, spitting
- threats of violence
- hoax calls, abusive phone or text messages, hate mail
- online abuse for example on Facebook or Twitter
- displaying or circulating discriminatory literature or posters
- harm or damage to things such as your home, pet, vehicle
- graffiti
- arson
- throwing rubbish into a garden
- malicious complaints for example over parking, smells or noise.

9) School ethos

Lake Haven School community recognises that bullying and hate incidents, 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 and hate incidents, our schools can help to create a safe, disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Our Community:

- Monitors and reviews our 'anti-bullying and incidents of hate policy' and practice on a regular basis.
- Support 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; 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 'anti-bullying and incidents of hate policy' policy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the 'anti-bullying and incidents of hate policy' policy.
- Reports back to parents/carers regarding concerns on bullying, dealing promptly with complaints.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

10) Responding to bullying / incidents of hate

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

- If bullying/ hate crime 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 targeted – 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 or another member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
- The designated safeguarding lead will be informed of all issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- The school will inform other staff members, and parents/ carers, where appropriate.
- Outcomes (as identified within the school behaviour policy) and support for individuals 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 care (if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm).
- Where the bullying/incident of hate takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing outcomes in school in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
- Where an incident of hate is reported/witnessed, the Head teacher and DSL will discuss this incident with parties involved to determine if it is motivated by bias or prejudice.
- If the incident is bias or prejudice motivated, this will be recorded as an 'incident of hate' and be reported to relevant agencies.

Cyberbullying

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;
- Contact 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.
- Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and also the school searching and confiscation policy. (**Note: Schools should ensure they access the DfE ' [Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)' and [Childnet Cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the schools powers are used proportionately and lawfully](#)**)

- Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Ensure that outcomes 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.
- 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 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/incident 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, engaging with parents and carers.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this could include support through Early Help or Specialist Children's Services, or support through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Pupils who have perpetrated the 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 providers.
- Outcomes, in line with the school behaviour policy; this may include official warnings, additional restorative sessions, removing resources which may be linked to the type of bullying/incident (including online access when encountering cyberbullying concerns), and fixed-term or permanent exclusions.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Specialist Children's Services, or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as appropriate.

Supporting adults

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

Adults (staff and parents) 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/other headteacher.
- Advising them to keep a record of the targeting as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
- Where the targeting 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 policy.

- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the targeting 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 (staff and parents) 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.

Note: *Specific guidance is available for school leaders regarding dealing with complaints made on social networking sites by parents/carers:*

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/child-protection-and-safeguarding/e-safety>

11) Preventing bullying/ incidents of hate

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/ incidents of hate can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (child on child abuse).
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying/ incidents of hate, such as: religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related differences. Also children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities.
- Challenge practice and language which does not uphold the values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- 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/ incidents of hate.
- 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 take into account 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 targeting brought to the school's 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 outcomes; the consequences of targeting 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:

- Train all staff, including: teaching staff, support staff and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying/ incidents of hate 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, the school/student council, etc.
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

12) 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 have to play to prevent bullying/ incidents of hate.

- Regularly canvas children and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying/ incidents of hate.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying/ incidents of hate.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of outcomes which may be applied against those engaging in bullying/ incidents of hate.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying, inclusive campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been targeted and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

13) Involvement and liaison with parents and carers

We will:

- Take steps to involve parents and carers in developing policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of targeting.
- Make sure that key information about bullying/ incidents of hate (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats.
- Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying/incidents of hate 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/ incidents of hate
- 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.

14) 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 and Proprietor will be informed of bullying concerns, as

appropriate.

15) Useful links and supporting organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The BIG Award: www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net
- The Restorative Justice Council:
www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practice-schools

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities:
www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf
- DfE: SEND code of practice:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

Cyberbullying

- Childnet International: www.childnet.com
- Digizen: www.digizen.org
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)
www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis

Race, religion and nationality

Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk

Kick it Out: www.kickitout.org

Report it: www.report-it.org.uk

Stop Hate: www.stophateuk.org

Tell Mama: www.tellmamauk.org

Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com/

Show Racism the Red Card: www.srrc.org/educational

LGBT

Barnardos LGBT Hub: [www.barnardos.org.uk/what we do/our work/lgbtq.htm](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm)

EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk

Proud Trust: www.theproudtrust.org

Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk

Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW)

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk o A Guide for Schools:

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAW-Coalition-Schools-Guide.pdf

Disrespect No Body:

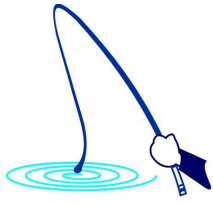
www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaign-posters

Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying:

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-gender-related

Note: Additional links can be found in 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' (July 2017)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying



LAKEHAVEN

A SPECIAL PLACE TO LEARN