

# Woolton High School – Anti-Bullying Policy 2019-20

## Introduction

*"By law, head teachers have to include prevention of all forms of bullying in their school's behaviour policy"* (Education Inspections Act 2006)

We at Woolton High believe bullying to be "engaging in persistent unwelcome behaviour, especially when it is clear that this behaviour is perceived to be distressing to or upsetting any other person."

Staff at Woolton High School recognise the distress that bullying can cause to an individual. It is for this reason that every member of the school community must exercise their responsibility to remain vigilant and ready to address and challenge all forms of bullying.

Bullying can take many forms; some which are obvious (such as physical taunting and violence) and others that are far more subtle and difficult to detect. This may include cyber-bullying, prejudice-based bullying, language related to special educational needs, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion and belief, gender reassignment or disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

Bullying should never be ignored. Bullies, as well as their victims need support and staff in Woolton High School need to be fair and consistent in their approaches to the management of bullying.

Woolton High School as a community is committed to fighting bullying and intimidating behaviour in the following ways:

- There is an established anti-bullying policy in practice throughout the school to which all staff and pupils must adhere.
- The policy is understood by staff, pupils and parents/carers who have opportunities to comment on its effectiveness.
- The policy is regularly reviewed by governors and shared with all members of the school community including teaching staff, support staff, pupils, School Council, parents/carers.
- Woolton High School has an Equal Opportunities policy in place.
- Opportunities are sought to raise awareness of the cause and effects of bullying in lessons, assemblies, through displays and via School Council Meetings.
- All members of the school community apply a consistent approach to the management of all safeguarding issues, including bullying. (See Safeguarding

Policy and Pupil 'Stay Safe Guide') Appropriate sanctions and support mechanisms are implemented and records are kept.

- All incidents of racist or homophobic bullying behaviour are centrally recorded in school. Such incidents are also reported to the Local Authority and the Governing Board of the school.
- Pupils are made aware of the process that is triggered when an incident bullying occurs through, assemblies, through the curriculum and through the school council.
- The whole school approach to bullying, racism and violent behaviour is explicitly one of 'zero tolerance'.
- The school's Behaviour Management policy is used to address all issues of anti-social and unacceptable behaviour.
- All staff are aware of the potential damaging effects of bullying and must ensure that all pupils have an equal and fair chance to thrive and learn in an atmosphere of respect and dignity.
- Materials and resources used in the curriculum support a whole school ethos where bullying is discouraged and where mutual respect is encouraged.
- Staff are aware of the procedures to follow if any incident of bullying that is reported indicates a Safeguarding concern.
- Cyber-bullying is minimised in school through safe and secure supervised access to the internet, including monitoring of sites, history checks and Liverpool City Council Firewall security. Assemblies are also used to spread the message of safe usage of electronic devices and anti-cyber bullying messages are reinforced. This topic is also covered through ICT / Media Studies lessons. The use of mobile phones is also prevented within the school. See e-safety Policy.

This Policy was agreed in September 2019

This policy will be reviewed by September 2020