



**BEVERLEY SCHOOL
FOR
PUPILS WITH AUTISM**

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

**Updated: November 2017
Approved by Governors: November 2017
To be reviewed: November 2019**

BEVERLEY SCHOOL'S ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is a subjective experience and can take many forms. A useful definition is 'The intentional hurting of one person by another, where the relationship involves a balance of power. It is usually repetitive or persistent, although some one off attacks can have a continuing harmful effect on the victim'.

This policy document has been written with reference to the document '**Anti bullying developmental guidance for schools.**'

MINIMISING THE RISK OF BULLYING

Our aim is to ensure that every child feels safe and happy at school. We provide an autism-specific environment and we treat pupils and students in a friendly and respectful way. This reduces stress and maximises the opportunities for communication. In this way, we create an atmosphere where children are less likely to show bullying behaviour, and are less vulnerable to the inappropriate attentions of others.

Each class is allocated time each day with their own teachers and assistants, who have a special role in monitoring and fostering personal and social development. Pupils and students know that they can raise concerns with staff and that they will be listened to and supported. Older students have a representative School Council, which gives them another channel for discussing important issues and any problems they want us to address.

We state clear expectations about how children and young people should behave towards each other. The details of these expectations and the format in which they are communicated vary from class to class, to suit the ages and abilities of the pupils and students. Any incidents are reported separately on a 'bullying form' and must be reported to the Head Teacher. Any incidents of bullying are reported to governors.

We conduct regular surveys with our students in which we ask them if they feel safe in school. We respond to individuals who tell us either verbally or through their behaviour that they are anxious or unhappy in their relationships.

Lesson times are highly structured. Staffing levels are appropriate to the needs of the pupils, and are regularly reviewed. Teachers and assistants are well-trained and highly committed. Teamwork is very effective. Behaviour problems of any kind are well managed, and it is rare for pupils to actively target each other. Incidents are properly recorded and analysed and where individual pupils have longstanding behavioural difficulties, detailed behaviour support care plans are agreed and implemented. We understand that bullying can take place even when adults are present and we are proactive in maintaining healthy relationships amongst pupils.

At break times, high levels of supervision are maintained and pupils have choices of activities appropriate to their interests and abilities. Although most of the children and young people get on well with others regardless of age, we recognise that the needs of our pupils and students change as they grow older, and that it is sensible to provide three different areas for leisure times for primary, secondary and post-16 respectively.

We want to resolve problems before they interfere with attendance and progress, and we are happy for parents to contact school if they have concerns about their son or daughter. This is particularly important if there are worries about bullying at school. We also have a

Family Liaison Officer, Lisa Hyde, who can work closely with families to ensure that any concerns are dealt with effectively.

E-bullying or cyber-bullying is the term used to refer to bullying or harassment by use of electronic devices such as PCs, mobile phones, email, instant messaging, text messages and websites. We take e-bullying seriously at Beverley School. Pupils are taught about this in the same way as other types of bullying and staff act in the same way if they become aware that it is happening. We do need the support of parents / carers, however, as e-bullying can take place outside of school.

Websites and resources

www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk

www.beatbullying.org

www.bullyfreezone.co.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.missdorothy.com - programme to promote personal safety in children aged 4-11

www.parentlineplus.org.uk a national charity that works for and with parents/carers, and offers advice and resources around bullying

<http://www.childline.org.uk> gives useful information to students, staff and parents.