



Old Windebrowe Anti-bullying Policy



Introduction

At Old Windebrowe, we are aware that students may be bullied in any school or setting, and recognise that preventing, raising awareness and consistently responding to any cases of bullying should be a priority to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. In line with the Equality Act 2010, it is essential that our school:

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

At Old Windebrowe, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Under the Children Act 1989, a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a student is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their Local Authority's safeguarding team. This policy is closely linked with our Positive Behaviour Policy, our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, our School Code of Conduct and the School's Vision, Aims and Values.

Principles

It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Headteacher to ensure that all members of the school community work within a safe and enabling environment. We value students developing 'respect for others resulting from active listening, trust and honesty' (Vision, Aims and Values). These four guiding principles underpin our Anti-Bullying Policy from the moment a student enters our school, and throughout their time at Old Windebrowe. They are:

- every student is a unique student, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured

- students learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- students learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- students develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

Aims

We are determined to promote and develop a school ethos where bullying behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, to ensure a safe and secure environment is sustained for all students. We aim for all students to reach their potential academically, socially and personally through learning and playing in a safe and secure environment.

What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include (but is not limited to):

Type of Bullying	Definition
Emotional	Being unfriendly or exclusionary, tormenting. Demanding money, material goods or favours by means of threat.
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: • Racial • Faith-based • Gendered (sexist) • Homophobia/biphobia • Transphobia • Disability-based	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)

Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites.
Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<p>Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, students and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard.</p> <p>Old Windebrowe recognises that AI has many uses to help students learn, but may also have the potential to be used to bully others. For example, in the form of 'deepfakes', where AI is used to create images, audio or video hoaxes that look real.</p>

Signs of Bullying

Staff should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including:

Physical: unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.

Emotional: losing interest in school, being withdrawn or secretive, unusual shows of temper, refusal to say why unhappy, high level of anxiety, mood swings, tearfulness for no reason, lack of confidence, headaches and stomach aches, signs of depression.

Behavioural: sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.

Bullying Prevention

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential in keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through PSHE lessons and themed days, students are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument. An annual 'Anti-bullying Week' is held to further raise awareness. E-safety is an important part of the curriculum and information for parents is included in newsletters and on the school's website. Students are taught to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that someone is being bullied, or if they are being bullied themselves.

Responding to Bullying

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to the Headteacher. In any case of alleged bullying, either the class teacher, or the Headteacher, should first establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and student witnesses if necessary and appropriate. If the allegation of bullying is upheld, the Headteacher should seek to use a restorative approach with the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) together. The consequences of their actions on the victim(s) should be fully explained to the perpetrator(s). Both parties should be clear that a repeat of these behaviours will not be acceptable. All bullying incidents must be recorded. Parents of both parties should be informed. If the situation does not improve, the Headteacher should meet with the parent(s) of the bullying child(ren) and agree clear expectations and boundaries which would be shared with the students involved. Any further incidents should lead to intervention (e.g. through outside agencies), further monitoring, support and sanctions as deemed necessary. Any necessary action should be taken until the bullying has stopped.

Listening to children

It is important that children are and feel that they are listened to when discussing or disclosing any potential incidents of bullying.

- Listen to the child
- Take them seriously
- Show empathy
- Let the child know it's not their fault
- Avoid stereotypes
- Reassure them they were right to tell you
- Follow our procedures for reporting concerns

Remember

- Bullying can have a huge negative impact on children – in the short and long term
- Be on the lookout for signs of bullying, and be aware of who might be more vulnerable
- Report any concerns you have
- Take prejudice-based bullying seriously and listen to children affected by it

Reviewed by: Head Teacher

Last reviewed: July 2025

Next review due by: July 2026