



**Anti-bullying Policy**

**2023 - 2024**

## Statement of Intent

Although we know bullying takes place in every school and in every walk of life. We are committed to combating bullying in all its forms. This policy outlines how Denton Community College is taking steps to combat bullying within its community.

Denton Community College is committed to ensuring that all students are able to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone, it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Denton Community College. If bullying does occur, all students should know who to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

The policy and procedures outlined below should be considered alongside the College's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies, Behaviour Policy, SEND Policy, Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy and relevant published government guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022).

## What Is Bullying?

'Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online'.

Bullying often exhibits behaviour that is:

- Repeated
- Intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- Often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

Bullying can be, but is not limited to:

- Physical assault
- Intimidation
- Making threats
- Name calling
- Cyberbullying - Bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

## Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No person deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. We at Denton Community College have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

## Aims of the Policy:

- To assist in creating an ethos in which attending College is a positive experience for all members of the College community
- To make it clear that all forms of bullying are unacceptable at Denton Community College
- To enable everyone to feel safe while at College and encourage students to report incidences of bullying
- To deal effectively with bullying
- To support and protect victims of bullying and ensure they are listened to
- To use restorative approaches which aid bullies in understanding the harm they are causing and offering them the opportunity to repair that harm
- To liaise with parents/carers and other appropriate members of the College community
- To ensure all members of the College community feel responsible for combating bullying

The **Anti –Bullying Coordinator** in our College is **Mrs C Wilson (Assistant Headteacher)**.

The Coordinator's responsibilities are:

- Policy development and review involving students, staff, governors and parents/carers.
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Coordinating strategies for preventing bullying behaviour

All staff in our College have a responsibility to model respectful behaviours both towards students and towards other adults.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

### **That a child is being bullied:**

A student may indicate by signs or behaviour that they are being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a student:

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from College hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to College
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

(The above list is not exhaustive)

### **That a child is bullying someone else:**

- Get into physical or verbal fights
- Have friends who bully others
- Are increasingly aggressive
- Get sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently
- Have unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blame others for their problems
- Don't accept responsibility for their actions
- Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity

(The above list is not exhaustive)

## **Possible Classifications of Bullying**

### **Bullying around racism, religion and culture**

Every child deserves respect and a safe learning environment whatever their racial or religious background and every child needs to learn that modern British society values diversity and mutual respect.

### **Homophobic bullying**

Homophobic bullying occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against a member of / or members of our LGBTQ community

## **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

## **Bullying involving Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) and Disabilities**

Children with SEND and disabilities may be adversely affected by negative attitudes to disability and perceptions of difference. They may find it more difficult to resist bullies, not understand that what is happening is bullying and have difficulties telling people about bullying.

## **Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying**

Sexist bullying is based on sexist attitudes that when expressed demean, intimidate or harm another person because of their sex or gender. Sexual bullying is bullying behaviour that has a specific sexual dimension and may involve suggestive sexual comments. Transphobic bullying stems from a hatred or fear of people who are 'transgender', which describes people whose sense of their gender or gender identity is seen as being different to typical gender norms.

## **Prevention**

Prevention is clearly the strategy of choice. We aim to prevent bullying from happening at all:

- At whole College level through assemblies/form time when students will be informed of the College's anti-bullying policy and the actions that will be taken to prevent bullying from taking place. This issue will be raised regularly when the whole College will be informed of the progress of the anti-bullying policy and any changes which may be introduced. This time will also be used to challenge the notion that there can be innocent, neutral bystanders with regards to the issue of bullying.
- At classroom level during form time, projects, Religious Studies, PHSE and Citizenship. Here the focus will be on developing strong anti-bullying messages and challenging the idea that bullying is acceptable as part of growing up.
- Denton Community College recognises that there are particular times when students may be more vulnerable to bullying – lunch and movement/sanitation breaks and the beginning and end of the College day. Members of the Senior Leadership Team are on duty (with many other staff) and can be approached for support if required.
- Students know that they can report any issues to any member of College staff and they know which members of staff are part of the safeguarding team.
- Behaviour Mentors and mediators will be available for those students requiring extra support.
- Parents/carers who believe their children are the victims of bullying should share their concerns with College at the earliest opportunity and be prepared to work with College to keep their children safe in future. All expressions of concern will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. Parents/carers should contact the Head of Year of their child's year group in the first instance.

## **Parent/Carer involvement**

Denton Community College is firmly committed to working in partnership with parents/carers and believes that the best outcomes emerge when professionals and parents/carers are able to work together when bullying occurs.

We recognise the important role that parents/carers play and we welcome the opportunity to work with parents/carers in order to resolve any issues associated with bullying. We will enlist their support when their child is involved in bullying, either as a victim or a perpetrator.

If a student is involved in a single serious incident of bullying or there is evidence that the same student is involved repeatedly in less serious incidents (either as a victim or a perpetrator) the College will inform parents/carers and invite them to become involved in the management of the problem and the prevention of further incidents. Isolated and less serious incidents will be managed by College staff and parents/carers will be informed.

## **Implementation**

All staff involved in the teaching and/or supervision of students will take responsibility for addressing incidents which fall within the College's definition of bullying and ensure that the victim receives the support required; the bully is informed of the unacceptability of their behaviour and a record is made of the incident.

All students need to be aware that staff want to be informed of any incidents or concerns and that action will be taken when bullying is reported.

## **Incident Management**

The College will take firm and decisive action to deal with any incident of bullying which is witnessed by or reported to any member of staff. All incidents and actions will be logged on CPOMS.

## **Post Incident responses for the target of bullying**

When a member of staff receives information, either directly or indirectly, that a student may have been the victim of a bullying incident, this report will be taken seriously and investigated.

The College will offer a proactive, sympathetic and supportive response to students who are the victims of bullying. The exact nature of the response will be determined by the particular student's individual needs and may include:

- Immediate action to stop the incident and secure the student's safety
- Positive reinforcement that reporting the incident was the correct thing to do
- Reassurance that the victim is not responsible for the behaviour of the bully
- Strategies to prevent further incidents
- Sympathy and empathy
- Counselling
- Assertiveness training
- Extra supervision/monitoring
- Creation of a support group
- Peer mediation/peer mentoring
- Informing/involving parents/carers
- Adult mediated restorative justice between the perpetrator and the victim (provided this does not increase the victim's vulnerability)
- Arrangements to review progress
- Involvement of outside agencies
- Sanctions for the bully

## **For the bully**

Denton Community College takes bullying behaviour very seriously and will adopt a pragmatic, problem solving approach to identify the route cause and attempt to prevent similar behaviours being repeated.

We will respond to incidents of bullying behaviour in a proportionate way e.g. the more serious the cause for concern the more serious the response. When sanctions are felt to be necessary they will be applied consistently and fairly. The following options will be considered:

- Immediate action to stop an incident of bullying in progress
- Engagement with the bully to reinforce the message that their behaviour is a breach of College rules and is unacceptable
- Loss of privileges
- Reflection and restorative sessions
- Put on target card

- Parents/carers informed
- Counselling/instruction in alternative ways of behaving
- Adult mediated restorative justice between the perpetrator and the victim (provided this is safe for the victim)
- Fixed periods of suspension
- Permanent exclusion
- Rewards/positive reinforcement for children in order to promote change and bring unacceptable behaviour under control
- External training by appropriate bodies
- The Behaviour Policy of the College will be applied where necessary.

### Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be evaluated annually and updated where necessary. The views of students and staff will be used to make changes and improvements to the policy on an ongoing basis.

### National Contacts and Telephone Numbers:

- **Childline** - Telephone number: 0800 1111  
(Open 24 hours a day) For children who are deaf or hard of hearing textphone service 0800 400222
- **NSPCC** - Telephone number: 0808 800 5000  
A registered charity dedicated to stopping cruelty to children
- **Kidscape** - Telephone number: 020 7730 3300  
(Bullying councillor available Monday to Friday 10.00am-4.00pm)
- **Anti-bullying Campaign** - Telephone number: 0207 378 1446  
(Advice line for parents/carers and children 9.30am to 5.00pm)
- **Advisory Centre for Education** - Telephone number: 0207 354 8321  
(Advice line for parents/carers on all College matters open Monday to Friday 2.00pm-5.00pm)
- **Ofsted** - Telephone number: 07002 637833  
Email: [freepublications@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:freepublications@ofsted.gov.uk)
- **Parentline/Carerline Plus** - Telephone number: 0808 800 2222  
(National helpline for parents/carers Monday to Friday 9.00am-9.00pm, Saturday 9.30am-5.00pm, Sunday 10.00am-3.00pm).

### Useful Websites Regarding Bullying in Schools:

- **BBC Bullying Survival Guide** [www.bbc.co.uk/education/bully/index.htm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/bully/index.htm) (Provides information, guidelines for dealing with all aspects of bullying, a help and resources list and accounts of celebrities who were bullied when they were at school)
- **Childline** [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) (Gives details on the CHIPS initiative and other information regarding bullying)
- **Kidscape** [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) (Gives advice and support for victims, schools and parent/carers)
- **Bullying Online** [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk) (A registered charity, which contains advice for both parents/carers and students)
- **NSPCC** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) (A registered charity dedicated to stopping cruelty to children)
- **Bullyweb** [www.uclan.ac.uk/facs/science/psychol/bully/bully.htm](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/facs/science/psychol/bully/bully.htm) (A research site with links to other sites on bullying)