



South Tyneside Council

Anti Bullying Policy



The Beacon Centre
Leading The Way To A Brighter Future

Reviewed - January 2020
Next review – January 2021



South Tyneside Council

Anti-Bullying Policy

The Beacon Centre believes every child really does matter. We are committed to providing a friendly, safe environment where all pupils can learn and achieve in a relaxed and secure environment. Bullying is a destructive element which can greatly affect the potential for success. Bullying in any form is unacceptable at our school and is taken very seriously.

The Beacon Centre recognises it's duty to protect pupils' rights in accordance with the Every Child Matters agenda (2003) supported by the Children Act (2004). The following aspects of these policies underpin everything The Beacon Centre holds imperative for pupils' academic progress and social development:

- To be safe;
- To be healthy;
- To enjoy and achieve;
- To make a positive contribution to society;
- To achieve economic wellbeing.

Aim

We are committed to supporting our pupils to be caring citizens both in and out of school. If bullying occurs outside of the school, we will do what is reasonably practicable to eliminate any such bullying.

If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with sensitively and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to inform a member of staff.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is deliberate hurtful behaviour in circumstances where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Such acts of aggression may be premeditated or opportunistic. Bullying always results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, (e.g. hiding books or threatening gestures)
Physical	Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
Racist	Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
Sexual	Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
Homophobic	Taunts, gestures, focusing on the issue of sexuality



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Verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, poison pen notes
Cyber	All areas of the Internet such as social media, email and internet chat room misuse
Mobile	Threats by text messaging and calls, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities

If a person feels they are being bullied, then the incident must be investigated accordingly.

Objectives of this Policy

- All members of the Management Committee, staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is, and should know what the policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported. Pupils and parents should know and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents / carers should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated in any form and will be reported using the appropriate form to the local authority.

Procedures - Pupils

- Pupils should report any bullying incidents to parents, or to any member of staff that they feel comfortable talking to.
- During the investigation all involved will participate positively and without delay.
- Pupils should participate fully in the programme put in place for conciliation.

Staff to whom the incident is reported or who first discover the incident should:

1. Intervene with the situation and make it safe. Make it clear that bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, and the incident will be fully investigated. It is important at this stage that no judgement is made. It may be necessary to control the bully and support the victim.
2. Write a full account of the incident on a bullying incident sheet (available in Head Teacher's Office). Inform the Head Teacher the same day.
3. If a member of staff has any concerns about physical changes in a child's presentation, e.g. marks, bruises, soreness etc. she/he will immediately report concerns to the appropriate manager/ designated person for child protection (Katherine Walton, Head Teacher).

Head Teacher Response



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Make clear to all concerned that:

1. The school takes bullying seriously and that we have zero tolerance for the action of bullying.
2. The incident will be recorded, and a full investigation will take place.
3. Appropriate sanctions will be given in line with the behaviour policy.
4. Parents / carers will be informed.
5. Conciliation between those concerned is essential and will take place using appropriate strategies.
6. The situation will be monitored and reviewed by an agreed date.
7. If the situation remains unresolved parents will be invited into school for a meeting with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher and further sanctions may be given.

Prevention and Intervention Techniques

All staff have a responsibility to raise awareness of the social nature of bullying through the creative curriculum and thematic programmes, Student Voice, use of key worker/tutorial time and in the national curriculum programmes of study as appropriate e.g. PSHE/ Citizenship.

Pupils will be praised for having the courage to inform staff. Areas where bullying may occur will be appropriately managed.

Where serious violence is involved the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher may exclude the pupil immediately pending further investigation.



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Guidance for Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in ensuring their child adheres to the service rules and takes responsibility for their actions. They should encourage their child to respond to concerns in a positive manner.

Advice for Parents

If you feel your child is being bullied

The following may be an indication your child is being bullied:

- Frequent illnesses such as headaches and stomach aches
- Irritable or aggressive behaviour
- They have few or no noticeable friends
- Money and property get regularly lost
- There is a noticeable change in their appetite
- Bruises and scratches are not easily explained
- They are unwilling to talk about school
- You have noticed a change in their school work

What can you do?

1. Talk to your child and remind them you are there to support them.
2. Encourage them to come to report the incident to any member of staff that they feel comfortable talking with.
3. Contact the school and speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
4. If you feel the matter has not been resolved, make an appointment with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher to discuss the situation.

If you feel your child is bullying others

The following may be an indication your child is bullying others:

- They have more money than usual
- They have possessions that do not belong to them
- They display aggressive behaviour and belittle others

What can you do?

1. Talk to your child and remind them you are there to support.
2. Discourage their poor behaviour.
3. Monitor their use of Facebook/SnapChat and other forms of communication
4. Contact the centre and speak to a senior member of staff.
5. If you feel the need, make an appointment with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher to discuss the situation.



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Anti-Bullying Policy - Guidance for Pupils

Bullying is deliberate hurtful behaviour against a more vulnerable pupil. These acts of aggression may or may not be planned but are intended to cause hurt. Bullying always results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, (e.g. hiding books or threatening gestures)
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What can you do?

- Look out for pupils who appear to be lonely or unhappy.
- Talk to them and offer your support.
- Encourage them to report any bullying incident to any member of staff that they feel comfortable talking with.
- Seek advice from a member of staff

What happens next?

1. The Beacon Centre takes bullying seriously and has a zero-tolerance approach for the action of bullying.
2. The incident will be recorded, and a full investigation will take place.
3. During the investigation all pupils involved will participate positively and without delay.
4. Appropriate sanctions will be given in line with the behaviour policy.
5. Parents/carers will be informed.
6. Pupils should participate fully in the programme put in place for conciliation.
7. The situation will be monitored and there will be a formal review.
8. If the situation remains unresolved parents / carers will be invited to attend a meeting with the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher and further sanctions may be given.

Where serious violence is involved the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher may exclude the pupil immediately pending further investigation.