



BULLYING **PREVENTION POLICY**

Reviewed in October 2023

To be approved by Full Governing Body in November 2023

INTRODUCTION

Holmwood is committed to providing a caring and supportive environment for all children. This commitment is made explicit in our school covenant which details individual rights within school.

In all aspects of this service's provision all pupils will be treated equally irrespective of race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

We aim to:

- Prevent bullying in this school
- Ensure that all staff, parents, pupils and governors are aware that bullying is viewed seriously
- Provide an environment which is safe and caring
- Provide challenges which are non-threatening
- Encourage children to feel secure
- Value children's opinions and involve them where appropriate in determining policy and rules.

In order to fulfil these aims we will adopt strategies which ensure that when bullying is suspected or alleged the victim can expect:

- that they will be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish facts
- that appropriate action will be taken to address the concerns
- that the action intended to be taken will be made clear to the child, and if appropriate, the child's parents.

Similarly, a pupil suspected of bullying another child is entitled to expect:

- to be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish facts.
- to be informed about the action the school can take.
- to be informed about the action the school intends to take.

APPROACH

Within the school's caring and supportive environment we are seeking to develop the whole child.

We now have a range of approaches to reinforce good behaviour within the school. We are developing approaches to encourage citizenship within a curriculum for Personal and Social Education. This will include spiritual and moral elements and will be our main vehicle for the teaching of values which respect the worth of the individual. Teaching and learning styles will also reflect the value we place on the individual.

Pupils are actively encouraged to share their feelings, concerns or worries with their parents or carers, in the knowledge that open communication between home and school will combat bullying.

We will endeavour to supervise as effectively as possible all the areas and times where children may be vulnerable. This will include:

- Morning bus reception time
- Afternoon departure time
- Breaktime
- Lunchtime
- PE/swimming changing
- Movement around school.

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

Content: - being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; for example pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;

Contact - being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults;

and

Conduct - personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

ACTION

Where bullying is suspected, or where an allegation has been made, the victim will be given time and space to talk to an adult in a safe and friendly place. Every effort will be made to establish facts. The child's feelings will be explored, as will ways of managing and overcoming bullying.

A similar process will be undertaken with the perpetrator(s). Outcomes and action will be monitored.

All members of staff are available as a resource for children.

Where there is any evidence that a bullying incident is not being remedied, or where it may be serious, then it must be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy Head who will monitor or take over the problem.

Contact with the home will normally be through the leadership team.