

## KING EDWARD VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy

### Anti-Bullying Policy June 2024

#### Values:

Scholarship – Character - Community

#### Intellectual Virtues

Reflection  
Critical Thinking

#### Moral Virtues

Tolerance  
Respect  
Gratitude

#### Civic Virtues

Social Justice  
Volunteering

#### Performance Virtues

Resilience  
Ambition  
Confidence



## Policy statement

All students have the right to go about their daily lives without fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of stress, affecting a student's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood.

King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy is committed to provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for all students providing opportunities for personal and academic progress. *All students and staff relate to each other with care and respect.*

- 1.1 **Scope:** This policy applies to all pupils and staff at the **Academy** irrespective of their age and whether or not a pupil is in the care of the Academy when and if **Bullying** behaviour occurs.
- 1.2 **Publication:** This policy is provided to all parents and pupils in the student planners, staff firefly shared area and is also available on request in the Academy office. In addition, the policy is published on the Academy's website. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.
- 1.3 **Government guidance:** This policy has been drawn up with assistance from guidance issued by the Department for Education (**DfE**) *Preventing and tackling bullying (July 2017)* and will be reviewed against any new government guidance issued from time to time.
- 1.4 **Equality:** This policy takes account of the Academy's public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2011.
- 1.5 **Policy aims:** Through the operation of this policy we aim:
  - to maintain and drive a positive and supportive culture among all pupils and staff throughout the Academy; and
  - to deter Bullying behaviour, detect it when it occurs, and deal with it by counselling and / or disciplinary sanctions and, if necessary, by permanent exclusion.
- 1.6 Bullying behaviour is always unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the Academy because:
  - it is harmful to the person who is bullied, and to those who engage in Bullying behaviour, and those who support them, and can in some cases lead to lasting psychological damage and even suicide
  - it interferes with a pupil's right to enjoy her learning and leisure time free from intimidation; and

- it is contrary to all our aims and values, our internal culture and the reputation of the Academy.

1.7 This policy will also apply to Bullying behaviour outside of the Academy of which the Academy becomes aware.

## 2 Bullying behaviour

2.1 **Meaning:** Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying may be:

- **Physical:** Hitting, kicking, pushing people around, spitting; or taking, damaging or hiding possessions
- **Verbal:** Name-calling, taunting, teasing, insulting or demanding money
- **Exclusionary behaviour:** Intimidating, isolating or excluding a person from a group
- **General unkindness:** Spreading rumours or writing unkind notes, phone texts or emails; or
- **Cyberbullying:** Using the internet, mobile telephones, social networking sites (such as Instagram and snapchat) etc deliberately to upset someone else (see section 2.2 below).

- **Bullying may also be:**

- sexual - talking to or touching someone in a sexually inappropriate way
- sexist - related to a person's gender or gender reassignment
- racist, or regarding someone's religion or culture
- related to a person's sexual orientation (homophobic)
- related to pregnancy or maternity
- related to a person's home circumstances
- related to a person's disability, special educational needs, learning difficulties, health or appearance.

2.2 **Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying is the use of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

2.3 **Intention:** Not all Bullying is deliberate or intended to hurt. Some individuals may see their hurtful conduct as "teasing" or "a game" or "for the good of" the other person. These forms of Bullying are equally unacceptable but may not be malicious and can often be corrected quickly with advice and without disciplinary sanctions. A bully who

does not respond appropriately to advice or sanctions would ultimately be permanently excluded from the Academy.

2.4 **Responsibility:** It is everyone's responsibility to ensure, whatever the circumstances, that no-one becomes a victim of Bullying. A person may be vulnerable to Bullying because of her age, physical appearance, nationality, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, culture or disability, or because she is new in the Academy, appears to be uncertain or has no friends. She may also become a target because of an irrational decision by a bully.

2.5 **Legal aspects:** A person who makes a physical or sexual assault on another, or who steals or causes damage to the property of another, commits a criminal offence and also a civil wrong known as a "tort" for which there can be legal consequences outside the Academy. Bullying behaviour may also be regarded as threatening behaviour or harassment which can be either a criminal offence or a civil wrong. Misuse of electronic communications could also be a criminal offence, for example it is an offence to send an electronic communication (such as a text message or email) to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety.

### 3 **Anti-bullying culture**

3.1 **Ethos:** Our expectation of all members of the Academy community is that:

- everyone is accountable for reporting any incidents of Bullying
- a pupil or a member of staff who witnesses or hears of an incident of Bullying will report it
- a complaint of Bullying will always be taken seriously
- no one will tolerate unkind actions or remarks or stand by when someone else is being bullied.

3.2 **Equal opportunities:** In Academy and in every year group:

- discriminatory words and behaviour are treated as unacceptable
- positive attitudes are fostered towards people who are disabled and towards ethnic, cultural and linguistic groups within and outside the Academy; and
- positive attitudes are fostered towards both sexes through the curriculum and tutorials.

3.3 **Staff:** Through their training and experience, members of staff are expected to promote an anti-Bullying culture by:

- celebrating achievement
- anticipating problems and providing support

- disciplining fairly, consistently and reasonably, taking into account any special educational needs or disabilities of the pupil and the needs of vulnerable pupils
- making opportunities to listen to pupils
- acting as advocates of pupils.

3.4 **Students:** Through our pastoral care systems, pupils are informed and taught that Bullying will not be tolerated in the Academy. They are encouraged:

- to celebrate the effort and achievements of others
- to hold and promote positive attitudes
- to feel able to share problems with staff
- to turn to someone they trust, if they have a problem
- not to feel guilty about airing complaints.

#### 4 **Anti-bullying systems**

4.1 **Vigilance:** Members of staff are vigilant at all times but particularly:

- Before and after lessons
- in the queue for the Cafeteria and in the Cafeteria itself
- outside of the school gates
- on school transport

4.2 **Meetings:** Bullying is regularly discussed in meetings between:

- members of the Senior Management Team
  - senior management and prefects, sixth form ambassadors
  - Heads of Year, pastoral managers, pastoral team, safeguarding team and sixth form ambassadors
  - tutors and pupils in their tutor group; and
  - Academy staff and year group staff
- The result of these meetings is to feedback information about friendship patterns, particular incidents, any pupil who seems to be isolated, any growing "power base" and any known conflict between a member of staff and a pupil, or between pupils so that strategies can be developed to prevent Bullying incidents.

4.3 **Education:** Measures are taken throughout each year to educate pupils about Bullying and this policy. These measures include:

- Personal, Social and Health Education (**Personal Development days**)
- Anti-Bullying posters placed around the Academy and registration activities

- Anti-Bullying messages are given in assemblies
- Once a year we hold an Anti-Bullying week

4.4 **Staff training:** Appropriate training in all aspects of care is arranged to ensure that Heads of Year, pastoral managers and other staff have the necessary professional skills, especially:

- awareness of the risk and indications of child abuse and Bullying, and how to deal with cases
- counselling skills (including bereavement).

And in year groups, ensuring that:

- there is an adequate presence of staff
- staff are actively involved with pupils in all areas of the year group when they are on duty
- measures are taken to avoid boredom and lack of purpose among pupils
- there is space available for pupils' quiet withdrawal
- good behaviour and discipline is maintained.

4.5 **Students' responsibilities:** We emphasise with senior pupils the role which is expected of them in setting a good example and being helpful to younger pupils and each other, in particular:

- all senior pupils have the opportunity for year group duties but senior pupils who do not wish to have extended responsibilities are not coerced
- the responsibilities of senior pupils are appropriately limited
- members of staff expect prefects to offer supervisory support; and
- year group and Academy ambassadors receive training at the beginning of the academic year on how to control younger pupils sensitively, especially in giving punishments.

4.6 **Record keeping and monitoring:** Heads of Year and staff maintain records of the welfare and development of individual pupils. In addition, every complaint or report of Bullying must be entered in the incident book. Heads of Year keep incident logs up-to date on CPOMS. The Deputy Headteacher for pastoral monitors all incident books and tutor files at the end of each term in order to enable patterns to be identified, both in relation to individual pupils and across the Academy as a whole and to evaluate the effectiveness of the Academy's approach. There will be a full review of the policy every two years, see paragraph 6 below.

4.7 **Culture:** When we drive and implement this policy we encourage every pupil to understand that:

- every complaint of Bullying will be taken seriously
- members of staff will deal with a complaint correctly and effectively in accordance with their experience and the training they have received
- there is a solution to nearly every problem of Bullying
- a pupil who complains will receive support and advice and in many cases the problem can be dealt with on a no names basis; and
- the primary aim will be for the Bullying to cease, not the punishment of the bully unless this is necessary.

## 5 Procedures

5.1 **Guidelines:** The following procedures are a guideline except where expressed in the terms "should" or "must". The best guide is the experience and training of the staff.

### 5.2 Reporting Bullying complaints

- **Students:** A pupil who is being bullied, or who is worried about another pupil being bullied, should complain without delay and can do so in several ways. They can:
    - tell her parents, form tutor, Head of Year, pastoral managers or a member of staff or a responsible older pupil; alternatively
    - report incident on the 'SHARP' system or by emailing a DSL
    - report this by using the SAFE box
    - contact the Academy Counsellor for advice
    - contact Childline (0800 1111); or
    - contact the Local Children's Services by telephone: 0121 3031888 for advice. Out of hours telephone number: 0121 675 4806
    - Report this to your chosen adult via use of Mindsafe.
  - **Parents:** Parents who are concerned that their child is being bullied should inform their child's, form tutor, Head of Year or pastoral managers via phone or email without delay.
  - **Staff:** This policy focuses mainly on the Bullying of pupils by pupils although it is recognised that a staff member could be a victim and on occasion may be perceived to be guilty of Bullying. Staff members who are concerned about being bullied or harassed should refer to the Academy's dignity at work policy which is set out in the King Edward Trust Employment Policies (these can be accessed on King Edward Multi Academy Trust website). Pupils and parents who feel that a member of staff is Bullying should report this in accordance with the procedures set out above in section 5.2. Complaints against teachers will be dealt with in accordance with staff disciplinary procedures.
- 5.3 **Initial complaint:** A person in authority who learns of alleged Bullying behaviour should:
- firstly, respond quickly and sensitively by offering advice, support and reassurance to the alleged victim, then

- report the allegation to the Head of Year, pastoral manager of the victim and the alleged bully as soon as possible.
- The Head of Year/Pastoral Manager must:
  - record the complaint on school safeguarding database CPOMS
  - contact the other Heads of Year (if applicable) to agree on a strategy, and on who will take the lead.

5.4 **Assessment:** The victim's Head of Year/Pastoral Manager will normally see the victim and (unless the case is very serious) any witnesses without delay and form an initial view of the allegation. All parties involved will complete a written statement.

5.5 The assessment will consider:

- the nature of the incident(s) - physical? verbal? exclusionary? etc
- is it a "one-off" incident involving an individual or a group?
- is it part of a pattern of behaviour by an individual or a group?
- has physical injury been caused? Who should be informed - Assistant Headteacher? Parents? The Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead? Children's Social Care Services? The police?
- can the alleged bully be seen on a no-names basis?
- what is the likely outcome if the complaint proves to be correct?
- At this stage, the possible outcomes for an incident which is not too serious include:
  - there has been a misunderstanding which can be explained sympathetically to the alleged victim with advice to the alleged bully; or
  - the complaint is justified in whole or in part, and further action will be needed (see range of action, below).
  - It may be determined that the event is categorised as conflict

5.6 **Serious incident:** If a Head of Year or Pastoral Manager believes that serious Bullying behaviour has occurred involving a pupil; or has recurred after warnings have been given to the "bully", she must inform the Headteacher and the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Dennis) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Miss E Jones.) The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then:

- interview the alleged victim, bully and any witnesses separately, in order to establish the facts of the case. She may decide to ask the Head of Year to be present;
- send a summary of his / her findings to the Head, relevant Heads of Year and the Assistant Headteacher or Lead DSL.
- The Deputy Headteacher or the relevant Heads of Year/Pastoral Manager will interview the alleged victim and bully separately:



- to confirm the facts of the case, if considered necessary; and
  - to decide on the action to be taken in accordance with the range of action set out below.
- The Deputy Headteacher will notify the parents of the victim and bully giving them details of the case and the action being taken.

5.7 **Range of action:** When a complaint is upheld the range of responses will include one or more of the following:

- advice and support for the victim and, where appropriate, establishing a course of action to help the victim including support from external services where appropriate
- advice and support to the bully in trying to change his / her behaviour. This may include clear instructions and a warning or final warning
- consideration of the motivation behind the Bullying behaviour and whether external services should be used to tackle any underlying issues of the bully which contributed to the Bullying behaviour. If these considerations lead to any concerns that the bully may be at risk of harm, the Academy's child protection procedures will be followed
- a supervised restorative meeting between the bully and the victim to discuss their differences and the ways in which they may be able to avoid future conflict.
- a disciplinary sanction against the bully, in accordance with the Academy's behaviour and discipline policy. In a very serious case or a case of persistent Bullying, a pupil may be permanently excluded
- action to break up a "power base"
- moving either the bully or victim to another class after consultation with the pupil and her parents and the relevant staff
- involving Children's Social Care or the police
- notifying the parents of one or both pupils about the case and the action which has been taken
- such other action as may appear to the Headteacher to be appropriate
- logging the information on CPOM's and Arbor
- Restorative justice (appendix A)
- Suggesting online resources (appendix B)

5.8 **Monitoring:** The position should be monitored for as long as necessary thereafter. Action may include:

- sharing information with some or all colleagues and with pupils in the class so that they may be alert to the need to monitor certain pupils closely

- ongoing counselling and support
- vigilance
- mentioning the incident at meetings of staff
- reviewing vulnerable individuals and areas of the Academy
- liaison between Heads of Year, the outcome being recorded in the incident books.

5.9 **Formal complaint:** If the victim or her parents are not satisfied with the action taken, they should be advised to make a formal complaint, according to the complaints procedure outlined in the Academy Complaints Policy.

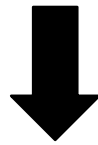
## 6 **Review**

6.1 This policy will be reviewed every two years by King Edward VI Multi Academy Trust to assess its effectiveness, and will be updated as necessary. In undertaking the review we will take into account the results of the monitoring as set out at section 4.6 above, as well as any changes in legislation and / or statutory guidance and other relevant information gathered (such as through a Bullying survey).

## Procedures for responding to alleged or witnessed bullying incidents

### An incident is reported or witnessed:

An alleged or witnessed incident is reported to a member of staff or by a staff member who witnessed the incident



### Investigation:

Incident is investigated by the appropriate member of staff who undertakes the role to establish the nature, roles and seriousness of the incidents and those involved.

Student witness statement should be used to investigate the incident which will also provide a log of the evidence identified.



### Staff should look for evidence that the behaviour:

- has occurred before or by its nature has caused repeated experience or the fear of it: e.g. cyberbullying or serious incident
- was deliberately intended to cause distress and/or harm
- has created a sense of powerlessness on the part of the individual being targeted!

and consider

- whether any aggravating factors such as equalities dimensions have been taken in to account and been addressed



**Hurtful behaviour has occurred but it was not identified as bullying**

**Head of Year /Pastoral Manager/  
AHT/Lead DSL**

Further action staff should take:

- Ensure **Student Witness Statements** has been completed fully
- Identify any harm caused with **Student Witness Statement**
- Provide support if required to all involved and record on **CPOMS**
- Inform parents/carers of the pupils involved
- Decide if any sanction needs to be applied in line with the school discipline/behaviour policy
- Engage and inform external agencies if necessary
- Consider the appropriateness of informing the police after decision with the Assistant Headteacher/ Lead DSL

**Evidence of bullying is found**

**Action required**

Further action staff should take:

- Inform DHT or AHT
- Complete **Student Witness Statements**
- Identify any harm caused with **Student Witness Statement**
- Provide support to those involved and record on **CPOMS** for targeted child and for the child who bullied
- Inform parents/carers of those involved
- Decide if any sanction needs to be applied in line with the academy discipline/behaviour policy
- Engage and inform external agencies if necessary
- Consider the appropriateness of informing the police



All incidents of bullying or allegations of bullying will be recorded on the school safeguarding/child protection database CPOMS

**Policy signed off by: Chair of Governors**

**Spring 2020**

**Review date: May 2025**

**Person (s) Responsible: Ms Takhar (Deputy Headteacher Pastoral) and Ms Dennis (Assistant Headteacher and Lead DSL)**

## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Restorative Justice is based on four key principles:

- **RESPECT:** for everyone by listening to other opinions and learning to value them
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** taking responsibility for your own actions
- **REPAIR:** developing the skills within our school community so that individual students have the necessary skills to identify solutions that repair harm and ensure behaviours are not repeated
- **RE-INTEGRATION:** working through a structured, supportive process that aims to solve the problem and allows young people to remain together in the same learning environment without any harm

## **Appendix B**

### **Resources and guidelines**

- **ChildNet International:** Specialist resources for young people to raise awareness of online safety and how to protect themselves. Website specifically includes new cyberbullying guidance and a practical PSHE toolkit for schools.
- **Digizen:** provides online safety information for educators, parents, carers and young people.
- **Internet Matters:** provides help to keep children safe in the digital world.
- **Think U Know:** resources provided by Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) for children and young people, parents, carers and teachers.
- **The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)** has produced a range of resources for schools, colleges and parents about how to keep children safe online, this includes advice for schools and colleges on responding to incidents of 'sexting.'

