



# ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGY

Staff Responsible	Assistant Headteacher
Date Approved	December 2020

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for students with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

This Strategy is based on DfE guidance "Preventing and Tackling Bullying" July 2017 and supporting documents. It also takes into account the DfE statutory guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2016. The school has read Childnet's "Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools".

### **1) Strategy Objectives**

- This Strategy outlines what Prospect school will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.
- The Strategy has been adopted with the involvement of the whole school community.
- Prospect School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

### **2) Links with other school policies and practices**

This Strategy links with a number of other school policies and practices including:

- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Online Safety and Acceptable use Policies
- Curriculum Policies, such as: PSHE, Citizenship and Computing
- Mobile Phone and Social Media Policies / Procedures
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Strategy

### **3) Links to legislation**

There are a number of pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 ( if appropriate) Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986

#### **4) Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of:

- The Headteacher to communicate this Strategy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.
- School Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this Strategy. All staff, including: governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this Strategy accordingly.
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.
- Students to abide by the Strategy.

#### **5) Definition of bullying**

- Bullying is “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)
- Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- This includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.
- Bullying can be a form of peer on peer abuse and can be emotionally abusive; it can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional development.

#### **6) Forms of bullying covered by this Strategy**

- Bullying can happen to anyone. This Strategy covers all types of bullying including:
  - Bullying related to race, religion, nationality or culture
  - Bullying related to SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability)
  - Bullying related to appearance or physical/mental health conditions
  - Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic, transphobic and biphobic bullying)
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Sexist, sexual and homophobic, transphobic and biphobic bullying
- Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying

#### **7) School ethos**

Prospect School community recognises that bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and

have serious consequences for mental wellbeing. By effectively preventing and tackling bullying, our schools can help to create safe, disciplined environment, where students are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Our Community:

- Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying Strategy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships, to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our students are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying Strategy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying Strategy.
- Reports back to parents/carers regarding concerns on bullying, dealing promptly with complaints.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

## **8) Responding to bullying**

The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.
- The Headteacher/ designated safeguarding lead or another member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
- The designated safeguarding lead will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
- The school will inform other staff members, and parents/carers, where appropriate. Sanctions (as identified within the school Behaviour for Learning Policy) and support for individuals will be implemented, in consultation with all parties concerned.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as: the police (if a criminal offence has been committed) or other local services including early help or children's social care (if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm).
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing

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support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.

## **Cyberbullying**

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.

Prospect School will take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:

- Looking at use of the school systems;
- Identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
- Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
- Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
- Confiscating and searching students' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and also the school searching and confiscation Strategy.
- Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and students regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online.

This may include:

- Advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
- Providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists
- Helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

## **Supporting students**

Students who have been bullied will be supported by:

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- Reassuring the student and providing continuous support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the designated safeguarding lead, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include: working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling, engaging with parents and carers.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this could include support through Early Help or Specialist Children's Services, or support through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Students who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Sanctioning, in line with school behaviour/discipline Strategy; this may include official warnings, detentions, removal of privileges (including online access when encountering cyberbullying concerns), and fixed-term or permanent exclusions.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Specialist Children's Services, or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as appropriate.

### **Supporting adults**

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among students; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of staff and parents, whether by students, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults (staff and parents) who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the Headteacher.
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools behaviour and discipline Strategy.

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- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

Adults (staff and parents) who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the Headteacher to establish the concern.
- Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

## **9) Preventing bullying**

### **Environment**

The whole school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer on peer abuse).
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as: religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, homophobic, transphobic and biphobic sexuality or appearance related difference. Also children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities.
- Challenge practice and language which does not uphold the values of tolerance, non- discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively create "safe spaces" for vulnerable children and young people.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

### **Strategy and Support**

The whole school community will:

- Provide a range of approaches for students, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to take into account the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online

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- behaviour.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools attention, which involves or affects students, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully, and those who have been bullied.
- Education and Training

The school community will:

- Train all staff, including: teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying (including homophobic, transphobic and biphobic ) and take appropriate action, following the school's Strategy and procedures (including recording and reporting incidents).
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop students' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

### **10) Involvement of students**

We will:

- Involve students in Strategy writing and decision making, to ensure that they understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they have to play to prevent bullying.
- Regularly canvas children and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all students know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all students are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve students in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to students who have been bullied and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

### **11) Involvement and liaison with parents and carers**

We will:

- Take steps to involve parents and carers in develop policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of



- bullying.
- Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats.
- Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for students, both on and offline.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively, to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

## 12) Monitoring and review: putting Strategy into practice

- The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the Strategy is being consistently applied.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The Headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate.
- The named Governor for bullying will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes.

## 13) Useful links and supporting organisations:

Anti-Bullying Alliance: <a href="http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk">www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk</a>
Childline: <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a>
Family Lives: <a href="http://www.familylives.org.uk">www.familylives.org.uk</a>
Kidscape: <a href="http://www.kidscape.org.uk">www.kidscape.org.uk</a>
MindEd: <a href="http://www.minded.org.uk">www.minded.org.uk</a>
NSPCC: <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk">www.nspcc.org.uk</a>
The BIG Award: <a href="http://www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php">www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php</a>
PSHE Association: <a href="http://www.pshe-association.org.uk">www.pshe-association.org.uk</a>
Restorative Justice Council: <a href="http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk">www.restorativejustice.org.uk</a>
The Diana Award: <a href="http://www.diana-award.org.uk">www.diana-award.org.uk</a>
Victim Support: <a href="http://www.victimsupport.org.uk">www.victimsupport.org.uk</a>
Young Minds: <a href="http://www.youngminds.org.uk">www.youngminds.org.uk</a>
Young Carers: <a href="http://www.youngcarers.net">www.youngcarers.net</a>
The Restorative Justice Council: <a href="http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practice-schools">www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practice-schools</a>
<b>SEND</b>
Changing Faces: <a href="http://www.changingfaces.org.uk">www.changingfaces.org.uk</a>
Mencap: <a href="http://www.mencap.org.uk">www.mencap.org.uk</a>

Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities: <a href="http://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf">www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf</a>
DfE: SEND code of practice: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25">www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25</a>
<b>Cyberbullying</b>
Childnet International: <a href="http://www.childnet.com">www.childnet.com</a>
Digizen: <a href="http://www.digizen.org">www.digizen.org</a>
Internet Watch Foundation: <a href="http://www.iwf.org.uk">www.iwf.org.uk</a>
Think U Know: <a href="http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk">www.thinkuknow.co.uk</a>
UK Safer Internet Centre: <a href="http://www.saferinternet.org.uk">www.saferinternet.org.uk</a>
The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-forchild-internet-safety-ukccis">www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-forchild-internet-safety-ukccis</a>
<b>Race, religion and nationality</b>
Anne Frank Trust: <a href="http://www.annefrank.org.uk">www.annefrank.org.uk</a>
Kick it Out: <a href="http://www.kickitout.org">www.kickitout.org</a>
Report it: <a href="http://www.report-it.org.uk">www.report-it.org.uk</a>
Stop Hate: <a href="http://www.stophateuk.org">www.stophateuk.org</a>
Tell Mama: <a href="http://www.tellmamauk.org">www.tellmamauk.org</a>
Educate against Hate: <a href="http://www.educateagainsthate.com/">www.educateagainsthate.com/</a>
Show Racism the Red Card: <a href="http://www.srtrc.org/educational">www.srtrc.org/educational</a>
<b>LGBT</b>
Barnardos LGBT Hub: <a href="http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm">www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm</a>
Metro Charity: <a href="http://www.metrocentreonline.org">www.metrocentreonline.org</a>
EACH: <a href="http://www.eachaction.org.uk">www.eachaction.org.uk</a>
Proud Trust: <a href="http://www.theproudtrust.org">www.theproudtrust.org</a>
Schools Out: <a href="http://www.schools-out.org.uk">www.schools-out.org.uk</a>
Stonewall: <a href="http://www.stonewall.org.uk">www.stonewall.org.uk</a>
Reachout: reachout@brighterfuturesforchildren.org
<b>Sexual harrassment and sexual bullying</b>
<a href="http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAWCoalition-Schools-Guide.pdf">www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAWCoalition-Schools-Guide.pdf</a>
Disrespect No Body: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaign-posters">www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaign-posters</a>

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Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying:

[www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-aboutbullying/sexual-and-gender-related](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-aboutbullying/sexual-and-gender-related)

Note: Additional links can be found in 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' (July 2017)  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying)