

Ysgol Y Bynea Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy

Adapted from Local Authority model policy.

Ysgol Bynea's Mission Statement.

Our aim at Ysgol Y Bynea is to create a happy and enriching environment for children by working in partnership with parents and the community.

We hope that by celebrating their achievements, helping them fulfil their potential, respecting their differences and encouraging kindness, consideration and respect, we will enhance self-esteem and provide a sound foundation for their future life.

'Firm Foundations, High Standards'



Article 19: We have the right to be safe.

You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.

Date	Review Date	Headteacher	Designated Governor
January 2025	January 2026	Mrs V Davies	Mr D Charles



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Statement of Intent

This school believes that bullying is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. All members of the school community share a collective responsibility for tackling bullying should it occur and in working together to promote positive behaviour.

"All children, whatever their race, sex, beliefs and abilities have the right to be safe and to be free from oppression, humiliation and abuse" (The Children's Act 2004).

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is NOT acceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

Aims of the policy

Our Policy is a working framework that may be updated at any time. It is designed to ensure that children feel safe, secure, confident and happy. It is designed to prevent bullying behaviour wherever possible, to respond consistently in line with agreed procedures should it occur and to provide support to those involved as appropriate. Our children's health and well-being is of paramount importance.

Prevention includes sending out a clear message that negative behaviour is anti-social, unacceptable and will not be tolerated here. This school policy is based on the Welsh Government initiative and Guidance "Respecting Others: Anti-Bullying Guidance".

Bullying or Unpleasantness?

Bynea's definition of bullying is: **"A systematic and extended victimisation of a person or group, by another or group of others."**

Unfortunately, many children can at times say nasty things or be spiteful to other children. It is the job of both parents and teachers to challenge and change such behaviour. Children need to be presented with guidance and good examples when they portray such unpleasant behaviour. It is important for the school to evaluate whether reports of bullying are

actually consistent bullying or more irregular acts of unpleasantness. The school treats all cases of bullying with paramount importance, but recognises that the term 'bullying' can often be used incorrectly. It is a fact of life that children will argue with each other and may at times be unpleasant to each other. It is essential for all children to develop the personal skills required to cope with social relationships that may be negative at times. Our pupils at Bynea are young - they may not make the correct social decisions all the time. Our pupils will make mistakes - these mistakes may involve them being unpleasant or difficult towards other children. All children will need to be given advice to challenge their actions when they have been negative towards other children.

When an act of 'bullying' is first dealt with it is important to consider whether it is an act of purposeful bullying or otherwise. The 'bully' may be going through a difficult period in their life, which means that they are not acting or treating others as they usually do.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is aggressive or insulting deliberate behaviour, repeated often over a period of time, and intended to cause emotional or physical harm to an individual or group of people. There usually exists a power difference between the bullied and the bully, which makes it difficult for the victim to defend themselves against.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures), intimidation, dirty looks, rumour spreading, isolating individuals, breaking friends up, publicly writing or displaying literature about a person
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, stealing, spitting and any other violent acts
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focussing on, the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, taunting threatening, insulting and making offensive remarks including sexist and racist comments

- **Cyber:** All areas of internet such as email & internet chat-room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities.
Bullying via websites including blogs, personal websites and online personal polling sites. The school is aware there has been a significant increase in use of social networking sites for young people e.g. Snapchat

BULLYING IS WHEN SOMEONE HURTS YOU...



SEVERAL TIMES ON PURPOSE

Why is it Important to respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

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

- is frightened of walking to or from school;
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus;
- begs to be driven to school;
- changes their usual routine;
- is unwilling to go to school;
- begins to truant;
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence;
- starts stammering;
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away;
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares;
- feels ill in the morning;
- begins to do poorly work school work;
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged;
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing";
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully);
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost";
- has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- comes home starving (as money / lunch has been stolen);
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable;
- is bullying other children or siblings;
- stops eating;
- is frightened to say what's wrong;
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above;
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone;
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Advice to parents.

- **Speak to your child about any concerns they have that may or may**

not be linked to the bullying;

- Tell your child that they will be supported and their concerns will be listened to;
- Try to evaluate whether it is purposeful bullying that occurs often and is meant to cause obvious harm to your child;
- Record the details involved with the acts of bullying - When it happens? Where it happens? Who is involved? What happens?;
- Speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance;
- Speak to the Headteacher or member of senior management if the problem continues;
- Give the school enough time to investigate and deal with the issue properly.
- Do not communicate your concerns on social media (e.g. Facebook) before speaking to the Headteacher or a member of senior management;
- Do not take it upon yourself to challenge the child who you consider to be the bully - any aggressive behaviour by an adult towards a child may be considered to be a criminal offence by the police;
- Do not take it upon yourself to challenge the parent of the child who you consider to be the bully - such action usually makes the situation much worse;
- Do not enter the school premises in an overly aggressive manner to complain about bullying, as you will be asked to leave the premises. It is important that you and school management discuss concerns properly - this must be done in a calm and focused way;
- Do not tell your child to hurt the bully back. This could result in your child getting into serious trouble. Such advice means you are condoning aggression and physical harm by your child. Such advice makes it very difficult for the school to sort out issues;
- Do not think that your child's teacher is ignoring bullying - bullies are usually very clever and ensure that their bullying is carried out in a way that will not be obvious to school staff

What to do if you think your child is being bullied.

Talk to school staff about the bullying. The first contact point is your child's class/form teacher. They can be contacted on 01554 771817 or by leaving a message at the school office. It will help to sort out what action to take if you can bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident.

- Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened;

- give dates, places and names of other pupils involved.
- Ask if there is anything you can do to help your child.
- Stay in touch with the school; let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

Encouraging reporting of incidents if bullying occurs:

- Pupils in this school can be assured that their concerns will be responded to with sensitivity. All reports will be taken seriously and investigated;
- Confidentiality for anyone who shares information will be respected;
- Opportunities for children to communicate concerns include PSE lessons, access to any member of staff, representation on the School Council and friends who will pass on concerns

A designated person (Headteacher or member of Senior Management Team) will monitor and collate information on victims and potential bullies. They will strive to do the following:

- Investigate the incident / establish facts by independently talking to all involved;
- Use appropriate intervention techniques to manage difficulties between bullies and victims;
- Where bullying behaviour has been established, implement agreed sanctions consistently and fairly as necessary to prevent further incidents;
- Involve parents as early as possible where incidents merit it;
- Apply guidelines from the all Wales Police "School Beat" partnership working document to determine whether official police involvement is needed; as indicated in these guidelines;
- Deal with incidents internally wherever possible;
- Keep accurate, factual records of all reported incidents and the school's response;
- Always follow-up incidents after they have been dealt with and review outcomes to ensure bullying behaviour has ceased;
- Provide on-going support for those involved where necessary.

Depending on the type of incident, if sanctions are used, these may include:

- Involving parents as / when necessary;
- Withdrawing privileges/free time;
- Preventing access to parts of school;
- Lunchtime exclusion;
- Short term exclusion;

- Involving appropriate outside agencies;
- Including details on the bully's school record;
- Permanent exclusion.

Addressing bullying that takes place outside of school.

A good deal of bullying can take place outside the school gates, and on journeys to and from school. Perpetrators of the bullying may be pupils of the school, pupils of other schools, or people not at school at all. At Bynea, our school's anti-bullying policy encourages pupils not to suffer in silence. Where a pupil tells of bullying off the school premises, school management can take a range of steps:

- Talking to the local police about problems on local streets or near parks (if necessary seeking a police presence at trouble spots);
- Involving parents or members of the local community;
- Talking to the head of another school whose pupils are bullying off the premises;
- Mapping safe routes to school, and tell pupils about them;
- Talking to pupils about how to avoid or handle bullying outside the school premises.

SUMMARY.

Strategies and preventative measures adopted to reduce the likelihood of bullying in this school :

- A whole-school approach involving everyone (staff, students, parents and governors) in developing and implementing this policy;
- Awareness and raising of the issues, procedures, sanctions and methods of monitoring bullying, eg. assemblies, pastoral work, PSE, parents meetings, newsletter, website;
- An ethos of personal responsibility where students are encouraged to tell if they experience bullying themselves or see others being bullied - knowing that not taking action condones the behaviour;
- Having a system in place for students to inform staff in confidence when bullying occurs; ensuring staff are appropriately trained and supported to respond to this;
- Developing our understanding of collective responsibility through Support Groups, Circle Time, School Council, drama activities, appropriate curricular work (eg PSE and our Healthy Schools initiative; sessions with School Community Police Officers);
- Having a clear, explicit link with the school's Behaviour and Child

Protection & Safeguarding Policies;

- Providing clear information and guidance on dealing with bullying and the help, which is available for students, parents and staff.

We will use various methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Writing a set of school rules;
- Signing a behaviour contract;
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying;
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly;
- Making up role-plays (or drama activities);
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters;
- Activities which focus on developing the social and emotional aspects of learning:- Whole School (all children), Small Group (for those who need a little extra support, Individual (our most needy children involving external intervention).

Positive Play:

When we have concerns about an individual child we may involve them in 1:1 Positive Play sessions with a skilled worker to allow them opportunities to inform an adult of their experiences. With young or particularly vulnerable pupils puppets may be used to encourage the child to speak. Children who are being bullied may not want to talk to anyone at first - through Positive Play they will hopefully develop the confidence to start to speak about the issues affecting them.

Restorative Practice:

When appropriate, it is important for the 'bully' to be informed of the effect that their actions are having on another child. This can be done in a careful way by encouraging the victim of bullying to talk about how they have been affected in the presence of the bully. This will only be done when it is deemed appropriate and will be led by senior management. The aim of this strategy will be to enable the bully to develop a better emotional understanding of how their actions can cause hurt and upset.

Restorative Conversation Prompts   	1. Can you tell me what happened? 2. What were you thinking/feeling at the time? 3. How have you been thinking/feeling since it happened? 4. Who do you think has been affected by your actions? How were they affected? 5. What could you do now to help make things right? 6. How can we prevent this from happening again in the future? 7. What can I do to help you? twinkl.com
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Support for the Bully:

A child who purposefully bullies other children is likely to be experiencing some negative experiences in their own life. When bullying is dealt with it is important that the bully is able to discuss his or her own concerns and fears. Staff need to be aware that purposeful bullying may be a result of various issues such as family break-ups, abuse experienced by the bully, mental illness, learning difficulties or exceptionally poor social skills. The school will also endeavour to support the bullies who may be experiencing significant issues themselves.

HELPFUL ORGANISATIONS:

- <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-young-people/>
- www.bullying.co.uk
- www.childline.org.uk/Explore/Bullying/Pages/Bullying
- www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-and-cyberbullying
- www.thinkuknow.net

	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Mr. Dafydd Charles		17/2/25
Headteacher	Mrs. Vicki Davies		7/1/25

PROCEDURES CHART RESPONDING TO BULLYING INCIDENTS

This is a suggested response. Every bullying incident is different and therefore whilst the diagram below may prove helpful, it is likely to need adapting to suit individual settings circumstances.

