

Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Mission Statement
‘Let Your Light Shine To All’

(John Wesley)

Through exciting opportunities in lessons and the wider curriculum our children become well rounded, caring changemakers in our world. Each child is at the heart of all we do to ensure they become the best they can be and are meant to be.

If doing a good act in public will excite others to do more good then ‘Let Your Light Shine To All’. Miss no opportunity to do good - (John Wesley)

Vision
As a truly distinctive Methodist school, our vision is to be a Welcoming, Worshipping and Witnessing presence in the village and community. At Burscough Bridge children thrive emotionally, spiritually and academically to be the person God intended them to be; a school that the local community and church can take great pride through.

Aims and Purpose of the Policy:

Burscough Bridge Methodist School is a place where every person has a right to be themselves, to be included and to learn in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at our school is equal and treats each other with respect and kindness.

It is a basic right of all children that they receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. We at Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School aim to reflect our responsibility by creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for the pupils in our care, so that parents may send their children to school in the confident knowledge that they will be protected from bullies. In the same way, the adults at Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School have the right to work free from harassment, humiliation and abuse.

Definition of Bullying Behaviour

The following definitions are given so that they can be shared and understood by all members of the school community including pupils, parents, staff and governors.

The official definition of bullying behaviour is:

“Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally”

The Lancashire Policy Definition is:

Bullying falls into two categories: Emotionally harmful behaviour, such as taunting, spreading hurtful rumours and excluding people from groups, or cyber bullying. Physically harmful behaviour, such as kicking, hitting, pushing or other forms of physically abusive behaviour
The behaviour constitutes bullying if:

It is repetitive, wilful or persistent It is intentionally harmful, carried out by a group or individual There is an imbalance of power leaving the person who is bullied defenceless

Our school rules which will guide pupil’s behaviour in this area are:
Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
As long as you ever can – John Wesley

School Initiatives:

We strongly believe in Restorative Justice and promote values of respect and equality. We work to ensure that difference and diversity is celebrated across the whole school community. We want to enable our pupils to become responsible citizens and to prepare them for life in 21st Century Britain. These values reflect those that will be expected of our pupils by society, when they enter secondary

school and beyond in the world of work or further study. We help our children discover resources within themselves, to develop effective strategies for meeting day to day conflicts in a positive way including:

- The PSHE Association and RSE programme of study includes opportunities for pupils to understand about different types of bullying and what they can do to respond to and prevent bullying
- School assemblies help raise pupils' awareness of bullying and derogatory language
- Difference and diversity are celebrated across the school through diverse displays, books and images. The whole school participates in events including Anti Bullying /Inclusion Week.
- The school's values of equality and respect are embedded across the curriculum to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible
- Stereotypes are challenged by staff and pupils across the school
- The older children offer support to all pupils, including our very youngest.
- Pupils are involved in developing school-wide anti-bullying initiatives through the School Council

No form of bullying will be tolerated and all incidents will be taken seriously.

Reporting Bullying:
We encourage our children not to retaliate, but to tell someone they trust about it, such as a friend, family member or trusted adult. They are also encouraged to report and bullying incidents in school:

- Report to a teacher - their class teacher, Headteacher, or any other teacher in school
- Tell a friend or playground buddy, who in turn can help them tell a teacher or other member of staff
- Tell any other adult member of staff in school - such as lunchtime supervisors, Teaching Assistants or the school office
- Tell an adult at home
- Call Child Line to speak with someone in confidence on 08001111 (posters with this number on are displayed around school)

Reporting - Roles and Responsibilities:
All school staff, both teaching and non-teaching (for example midday supervisors, caretakers) have a duty to report bullying, to be vigilant to the signs of bullying and to play an active role in the school's measures to prevent bullying. If staff are aware of bullying, they should reassure the pupil(s) involved and inform the headteacher.
All members of staff at school promote the safety and well-being of all young people. Mrs Tyrer is the Senior Leader responsible for anti-bullying and will investigate all concerns of bullying or delegate to an appropriate member of staff.

Parents and Carers: Parents and carers should look out for potential signs of bullying. Parents and carers should encourage their child not to retaliate and support and encourage them to report the bullying. Parents and carers can report an incident

of bullying to the school either in person, speaking to the class teacher or by emailing the school office.

Pupils: Pupils should not take part in any kind of bullying and should watch out for signs of bullying among their peers. They should never be bystanders to incidents of bullying, but should offer support to the victim and, if possible, help them to tell a trusted adult.

Child -on- Child abuse is defined as abuse between children.
Burscough Bridge Methodist School has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, including Child -on- Child abuse. Child on Child abuse can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying via text messages or the internet); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.)
Burscough Bridge Methodist School will refer to specific guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education: Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Keeping children safe in education 2026

and Lancashire Procedures. https://lancashiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/

All staff will be aware that Child -on- Child abuse can occur between pupils of any age and gender, both inside and outside of school, as well as online. All staff will be aware of the indicators of Child -on- Child abuse, how to identify it, and how to respond to reports.
All staff will speak to the DSL if they have any concerns about Child -on- Child abuse. All staff will understand the importance to challenge inappropriate behaviour between peers, and will not tolerate abuse as “banter” or “part of growing up”.

Challenging physical behaviour (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms etc. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviour’s, risks normalising them and not recognising, acknowledge or understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and/or down playing some behaviours related to abuse can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worse case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it. We understanding that the above can be driven by wider societal factors beyond the school such as: everyday sexist stereotypes and everyday sexist language this is why a whole school approach (especially preventative education) as described in KSCIE is important.

Responding:
When bullying has been reported, the following actions will be taken:

- Staff will record the bullying on CPOMs.
- The Headteacher will monitor CPOMS. These will be communicated, where appropriate, to relevant school staff so that actions can be taken to support pupils.
- The Headteacher will summarise information on bullying incidents in her termly Headteacher’s Report to the governing body.

- Staff will offer support to the target of the bullying, in discussion with the pupil's class teacher. Individual meetings will then be held with any target of bullying to devise a plan of action, that ensures they are made to feel safe and reassured that the bullying is not their fault.
- Staff will pro-actively respond to the person carrying out the bullying behaviour, who may require support. They will discuss with the target's class teacher to devise a plan of action

- Staff will decide whether to inform parents or carers and where necessary involve them in any plans of action
- Staff will assess whether any other authorities (such as police or local authority) need to be involved, particularly when actions take place outside of school.

A bullying incident will be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the Headteacher will report their concerns to their local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child doing the bullying.

Bullying Outside of School: Cyber bulling

- The nature of cyber bullying in particular means that it can impact on pupils' well-being beyond the school day. This may include the use of messaging apps
- gaming platforms
- social media
- image sharing
- exclusion from online groups

Staff, parents and carers, and pupils must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report and respond according to their responsibilities as outlined in this policy and The Online Safety Policy.

Training:
The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that all school staff, both teaching and non-teaching (including midday supervisors, caretakers and office staff) receive regular training on all aspects of the anti-bullying policy.

Monitoring and Reviewing:
The headteacher is responsible for reporting to the governing body (and the local authority where applicable) on how the policy is being enforced and upheld, via the termly Headteacher's Report.

The governors are in turn responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy via the report and by in-school monitoring such as learning walks and talking to pupils.

This policy is reviewed every twelve months, in consultation with the whole school community.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure conformance with current guidelines and in consultation with key stakeholders.

Policy Reviewed: September 2026 (Mrs L Tyrer)

Review due: September 2027