

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

'Believe and Achieve'



Positive Behaviour Policy (Including Anti-Bullying Policy)

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Welwyn St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Positive Behaviour Policy (including Anti-Bullying Policy)

At Welwyn St Mary's our school vision is 'Believe and Achieve' taken from St Matthew's gospel (chapter 19, verses 16-18). By this we believe in the teaching of Jesus so that all members of our community may flourish and be the best version of themselves. We also believe in others to enable their success and build up self-belief so that all can achieve.

We are committed to providing the best educational experiences for our pupils and to the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of our life and work. We aim to create a caring environment where each pupil believes in themselves and others. Our Christian values underpin every aspect of our school life and our intention is to encourage each of our pupils to develop, express and achieve their spiritual capabilities to the full. We believe that each member of the school community will be respected and encouraged to work and worship together in an atmosphere of security, trust and co-operation.

To support our aims and ethos, it is essential that our pupils attend school regularly, are motivated to believe that they can make choices to support a positive environment for all to learn and achieve. Our Positive Behaviour Policy establishes the agreed ways in which all members of the school community will contribute to the learning environment and the values our school upholds.

We have adopted the Hertfordshire Steps therapeutic approach to behaviour management. This approach has an emphasis on consistency, on the teaching of internal discipline rather than imposing external discipline, and on care and control, not punishment. It uses techniques to de-escalate a situation before a crisis occurs and, when a crisis does occur, it adopts techniques to reduce the risk of harm.

Staff are trained in level one 'Step on' training and new staff joining the school will receive this training as soon as it is available to them. We have two members of staff who are accredited Hertfordshire Steps tutors and deliver the initial training and annual refresher training to our staff.

Expectations

As a Church of England school, our values are rooted in the Christian faith and underpin every aspect of our school life. At the beginning of each school year, the new class and teacher discuss how the school expectations can be applied in their own classroom. These expectations, devised with the children, summarises the type of behaviour we all wish and expect to see at Welwyn St Mary's:

We are kind, helpful and polite to everyone in school.

We always listen carefully and do our best.

We believe in ourselves and others and want to achieve to the best of our abilities.

We respect and look after our own, other people's and school property.

We behave in a safe way in the classroom and around the school.

Class expectations for behaviour are agreed together and displayed in the classroom at the beginning of the academic year and revisited regularly. These are reinforced, scaffolded and modelled by all members of staff at all times throughout the school day in all areas of school. It is also explicitly taught through our PSHCE curriculum including subjects such as discrimination and prejudice, and as part of our SRE curriculum, inappropriate behaviour (**including** sexual harassment and violence).

The school has developed a child friendly behaviour policy (see Appendix 9 at the end of this policy) to help simplify expectations for children, based on three main rules, which apply to and can be related to most situations, when promoting positive behaviour:

- 1) Be **Safe**
- 2) Be **Respectful**
- 3) **Aim High**

Teachers will use their professional judgements in relation to negative choices to low level behaviours (*not following instructions, persistent low level behaviour, name calling, throwing things, shouting/calling out during teaching time, moving around the classroom without permission, talking when others are talking, being rude to peers*) and the consequences they feel are appropriate depending on the age and understanding of the child or children.

More serious negative choices which include showing disrespect, hurtful or harmful choices will be dealt with by the class teacher and in some cases a member of the Senior Leadership Team. There will be an investigation and discussion regarding what happened and what could have been done differently, with a suitable consequence which will include making amends and asking for forgiveness.

Consequences for negative choices must either be protective or educational.

Protective consequences are actions to ensure no further harm occurs in the short term.

- Discussions with the class teacher and SLT
- Increased staff ratio, where applicable
- Limited access to outside space - alternative provision must be provided. Access to alternative playtimes and attending The Den at lunchtimes.
- Support in social situations
- Differentiated teaching space
- Internal exclusion
- Suspension
- Exclusion

Educational consequences are the learning, rehearsing or teaching so the freedom can be returned.

- Time to Reflect to be completed and reviewed with a member of staff
- Completing tasks in 'Catch up time'
- Rehearsing
- Assisting with repairs
- Educational opportunities
- Research
- Restorative meetings, reconciliation and forgiveness

It is essential that there is always an educational consequence. We must be able to show how we have helped our pupils develop and achieve new skills or new ways of thinking through discussion, debrief activity or rehearsing. Educational consequences provide the pupil with the skills and incentives to behave differently faced with the same set of circumstances reoccurring. Children are supported by an adult with the educational consequences. These activities can be completed during 'Catch Up' time which can be playtimes/lunchtimes or during Golden Time.

Celebrating Success

When pupils are engaged and learning we need to 'catch them getting it right' through specific praise, and celebration. Learners should also be made aware that their positive behaviour can be rewarding in itself and also brings about positive experiences and feelings in others. Our weekly celebration assembly celebrates success in behaviour as well as in learning. Our other rewards include:

- **Public and private praise**
- **Golden time**
- **House points**
- **Achievements recognised by another member of staff. Achievements shared with parents**
- **Individual and whole class agreed reward systems**
- **Achievement postcards**
- **Stickers and Headteacher's stickers**
- **Badge Awards and Values Cup**
- **Golden Book and awards**
- **Golden Table**

Promoting positive behaviour

At Welwyn St Mary's Primary School we all place a high emphasis on positive behaviour. The behaviour and social development of our pupils is central to their ability to access and interact with the wider community, their continued development and the quality of their lives. Everyone who comes into the school - learners, parents, staff and visitors - has a responsibility for promoting positive behaviour by demonstrating clear Christian values and principles through:

- teaching right from wrong
- honesty
- respect for others
- getting on with people and establishing positive relationships

- internal-discipline, self-management of behaviour and a sense of responsibility for positive behaviour
- praise
- being inclusive

Positive experiences create positive feelings. Positive feelings create positive behaviour. Negative experiences create negative feelings. Negative feelings create negative behaviour.
(Hertfordshire Steps, 2016)

External discipline may suppress anti-social behaviour but long term behavioural change comes from developing internal discipline. We believe, as per our vision, that children 'learn behaviour' and make positive behaviour choices through;

- Relationships with adults and peers
- Role models, patterning and copying
- Positive phrasing and reminding
- Scripts and routines, repetition and structure
- Consistent, clear and agreed boundaries
- Praise, reward and positive reinforcement
- Comfort and forgiveness

Our behaviour approach covers a range of areas including conflict de-escalation, calm body language, debriefing and positive handling techniques. In line with the approach, the school follows a number of principles:

- Staff should always speak to children respectfully and calmly - reducing conflict and leading by example.
- Staff should help children and always try to reduce conflict, not do anything that may escalate it.
- The importance of using a calm stance and de-escalation script* in a conflict situation.
- Recovery time should be given for the child to calm down after an incident, after which time there should be a de-brief, usually carried out by someone not involved in the incident.
- A risk management plan should be completed for any child for whom there is a 'foreseeable risk' that they may behave in a way that will cause harm to themselves, others or property.
- The importance of handling children in a safe way (see appendix 2 - Positive Handling policy).
- The importance of being proactive in managing children's behaviour i.e. trying to avoid situations which may cause conflict.
- The importance of recording incidents and the harm caused by them.

*De-escalation script is a prepared script to be used when a child is trying to engage adults or others in conflict. The script is:

1. Child's name

2. I can see something has happened
3. I'm here to help
4. Talk and I'll listen
5. Come with me and...

Planned Responses to Escalating Behaviours

When positive behaviour is not being demonstrated we believe, as per our vision, that it is essential to have a consistent approach that allows children to reflect upon their choices and take steps to make positive behaviour choices. Classrooms and areas of school have 'time to reflect' areas where children are given time to cool down and reflect. After this the children are able to repair and restore the situation.

Additional consequences

Some behaviours exhibited can be more challenging. Our response to harmful behaviour should be set in the context of Hertfordshire Steps cool down, repair, reflect and restore. Responses to these behaviours will aim to de-escalate the behaviour and may include:

- Positive phrasing
- Limited choice
- Disempowering the behaviour
- Protective consequences
- Educational consequences

To facilitate change, behaviour needs to be understood rather than suppressed (Hertfordshire Steps), the Hertfordshire Steps Roots and Fruits and Anxiety Mapping may be used to help adults consider the underlying causes of behaviour choices. Please see Steps tutors for more information.

More significant incidents

In the event of a more significant playground/classroom incident, the following consequences may be used;

- Use of de-escalation script
- Exit from playground/classroom
- Incident is recorded
- Educational consequences
- Time to Reflect (appendix 4) to be completed and reviewed with a member of staff
- Repair, reflect, restore discussed with a member of staff
- Playground exclusion
- Internal exclusion
- Suspension
- Exclusion

Any Discrimination (regarding any protected characteristic)

In the event of an incident regarded as discrimination or prejudice, regarding any protected characteristic, the incident would be recorded and investigated and following consequences may be used:

- Time to Reflect to be completed and reviewed with a member of staff
- Repair, reflect, restore discussed with a member of staff and children involved
- Incidents involving discrimination must also be recorded in the discrimination file kept in the School Office, along with the actions taken
- Parents of both parties always informed about the incident
- Playground exclusion
- Suspension
- Exclusion

Inappropriate sexualised behaviour including harassment or violence

In the event of an incident regarded as sexual harassment or violence, the incident would be recorded and investigated and the following consequences may be used:

- Time to Reflect to be completed and reviewed with a member of staff including understanding why it is inappropriate - educational or protective consequences could be used here
- Repair, reflect, restore discussed with a member of staff and children involved
- Advice sought from the LADO
- Parents of both parties always informed about the incident
- Playground exclusion
- Internal exclusion
- Suspension
- Exclusion
- Police informed if actions were unlawful

Violence and Physical Aggression

The following consequences may be used age appropriately;

- Removal from the situation
- Time to Reflect to be completed and reviewed with an adult
- Repair, reflect, restore discussed with an adult
- Parent / Carer notified,
- Recorded
- Supervised movement around the school
- Playground exclusion
- Internal exclusion
- Suspension
- Exclusion

In the event of a child struggling to manage their behaviour positively in school and who has a number of repeated serious incidents, a behaviour plan may be written in conjunction with external professionals and parents.

Behaviour Plans

Learners who may need a behaviour plan are those whose needs are exceptional and for whom the usual everyday strategies, techniques and approaches are insufficient. Typically this will include learners who may require some specific form of intervention to maintain their

own safety and that of others and to ensure learning takes place for all.

A plan will:

- involve parents/carers and learners to ensure all parties understand clearly the actions and expectations of the school and what specific action the school may take
- include a risk assessment to ensure staff act reasonably, consider the risks, and learn from what happens and to ensure the safety of other children and adults
- take into account the age, understanding, and competence of the individual learner
- consider approaches appropriate to each learner's circumstance and will focus on the three stages, before a crisis, during a crisis and after a crisis
- be based on the basic premise that "Positive experiences create positive feelings and positive feelings create positive behaviour" (Hertfordshire Steps Behaviour Management 2016)

Our school's behaviour policy plans for the majority of our pupils. However, in addition, some children may occasionally require an **Individual Risk Management Plan** or a **Pastoral Support Programme (PSP)** to formalise strategies that differentiate from policy. A Pastoral Support Programme is a formal, 16-week programme that provides targeted support for children at risk of exclusion. This will usually involve referral to agencies from outside the school. This will be used when meaningful and appropriate.

Suspension and permanent exclusion

All pupils are entitled to an education where they are protected from disruption and can learn in a calm, safe and supportive environment. Suspension and permanent exclusions are only used in response to serious incidents or in response to persistent poor behaviour which has not improved following in-school sanctions and interventions.

Some of the circumstances that may warrant a suspension or permanent exclusion to occur can be found within the section 'Reasons and recording exclusions' within the '[Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England including pupil movement guidance](#)'.

Suspension

A suspension, where a pupil is temporarily removed from the school, is an essential behaviour management tool and forms part of our school's behaviour policy.

A suspension may be used to provide a clear signal of what is unacceptable behaviour as part of the school's behaviour policy and show a pupil that their current behaviour is putting them at risk of permanent exclusion ([DfE's Suspension and Permanent Exclusion guidance p.12](#)).

Internal exclusion

There may be occasions, rather than issuing a suspension, where the school will offer an internal exclusion. This will mean the child will come to school, but will not be with their peers for the duration of the exclusion. The child will be required to enter and leave the school via the front entrance and will work in a space away from their peers. The child will also remain inside during play times and lunchtimes.

Permanent exclusion

A permanent exclusion is when a pupil is no longer allowed to attend a school. The decision to exclude a pupil permanently will only be taken:

- in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
- where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others such as staff or pupils in the school.

The reasons below are examples of the types of circumstances that may warrant a suspension or permanent exclusion:

- Physical assault against a pupil
- Physical assault against an adult
- Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil
- Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult
- Use, or threat of use, of an offensive weapon or prohibited item that has been prohibited by a school's behaviour policy
- Bullying
- Racist abuse
- Abuse against sexual orientation or gender reassignment
- Abuse relating to disability

This list is non-exhaustive and is intended to offer examples rather than be complete or definitive and comes from the DfE's guidance.

At Welwyn St Mary's, we consider the following behaviour unacceptable and it could result in internal exclusion, suspension or potentially permanent exclusion of the pupil:

- **Physical assault** - this includes fighting, violent behaviour, wounding, obstruction, jostling, biting, hitting, kicking, punching, play fighting, physical intimidation, deliberate scratching, spitting and holding tightly anywhere, especially round the neck, possession of, or use of an object that could be used intentionally to harm someone else.
- **Verbal abuse and threatening behaviour** - this includes threatened violence, aggressive behaviour, shouting, use of swearing or bad language, verbal intimidation, unkind remarks, lying, establishing gangs, emotional abuse.
- **Bullying** - this includes 'behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group, either physically or emotionally'.
- **Racist abuse** - this includes taunting and harassment, bullying, graffiti, derogatory statements and swearing that can be attributed to racist characteristics.
- **Sexual misconduct** - including abuse, assault, harassment, bullying, graffiti, lewd behaviour and abuse against sexual orientation or gender reassignment.

- **Drug and alcohol related** – including possession of illegal drugs, inappropriate use of prescribed drugs, drug dealing, smoking, vaping, alcohol or substance abuse.
- **Damage** – to school or personal property to any member of the school community, vandalism, arson, graffiti.
- **Theft** – including stealing school property, personal property, extortion.
- **Persistent disruptive behaviour** – this includes challenging behaviour, disobedience, persistent violation of the school rules, persistently refusing to follow instructions or requests, unsafe behaviour, leaving the school site.

Only the headteacher has the authority to suspend or exclude a pupil from school. They may suspend a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. They may also exclude a pupil permanently. County exclusion policy is followed.

In the event of discrimination being established, the child may be given an internal exclusion in the first instance, depending on the nature of the comment and the age of the child. An external suspension or exclusion may follow if it happens again.

Roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher, other staff and governors in the event of exclusion

The **Headteacher** will be responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented and for reporting to governors on its impact. They will:

- inform the pupil's parent(s) or carer of serious indiscipline and the sanctions, the period of any exclusion, and when permanent exclusion is judged to be necessary
- carry out an investigation to identify the reasons for the exclusion
- advise the parent/carers that they may make representations about the exclusion to the governing body's discipline panel
- advise the parent/carers how representations may be made, that they are responsible to ensure their child is not found in a public place, and on what alternative education will be provided
- notify both the local authority and the Chair of Governors of the details of the exclusion, including the reasons for it, in the case of:
 - (a) a permanent exclusion or a fixed-period exclusion converted to a permanent one;
 - (b) a fixed-period exclusion of more than five days or which brings the days the pupils has been excluded in one term to more than five;
 - (c) an exclusion that would result in the pupil losing the opportunity to take a public exam.

The **governing body** has an **Exclusions Panel**. They will ensure they receive training to fulfil their role. The Headteacher is not a member of this panel.

The panel will have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

If the **Exclusions Panel** decide that a pupil should be reinstated, they will give the appropriate direction to the Headteacher (who is under a duty to comply with it) and inform the parent and LA of their decision.

If they decide that a pupil should not be reinstated, they will inform the parent, the Headteacher and the LA of their decision. In the case of a permanent exclusion they will notify the parent in writing of their decision and the reasons for it within one day. The letter will advise the parent of his or her right to appeal against their decision, whom they should contact to lodge an appeal, the final date for this, and that the notice of appeal should set out the grounds of appeal.

Bullying - see Appendix 1 for Anti-Bullying Policy

Parents/families

Our relationship with parents is particularly important in promoting the development of good behaviour. We keep parents informed about school activities through newsletters and parentmail. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with their child's teacher or the headteacher. We also keep parents informed regularly about their child's behaviour through reports, consultation meetings and informal contacts.

Agencies

Full use is made of external support agencies.

Review of Policy

Evaluation of the effectiveness of this policy will be continuous. Regular staff meetings and meetings of the headteacher with MSAs and classroom assistants aim to address staff concerns and highlight successes. Circle time and curriculum opportunities through PSHCE and School Council will involve pupils in sustaining, monitoring and evaluating policy effectiveness.

Anti-bullying Policy

BULLYING IS NOT TOLERATED AT WELWYN ST MARY'S

Incidents of bullying must be distinguished from random acts of aggression and from minor friendship disputes.

These procedures are to be read in conjunction with Welwyn St Mary's anti-discriminatory procedures (Appendix 6).

At Welwyn St. Mary's children, staff, governors and parents have agreed upon the following criteria to define bullying:

Bullying is hurtful or unkind behaviour which is deliberate or repeated. Bullying can be carried out by an individual or a group of people towards an individual or group. The **STOP** acronym can be applied to define bullying **Several Times On Purpose**.

The nature of bullying can be -

Physical - such as hitting or physically intimidating someone, or using inappropriate or unwanted physical contact towards someone.

Attacking property - such as damaging stealing or hiding someone's possessions.

Verbal - such as name calling, spreading rumours about someone, using derogatory or offensive language or threatening someone.

Psychological - such as deliberately excluding or ignoring people

Cyber - such as using text, email or other social media to write or say hurtful things about someone.

Sexual Harassment - 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline and both inside and outside of school. When we reference sexual harassment, we do so in the context of child on child sexual harassment.

Bullying can be based on any of the following things:

- Race
- Religion or belief
- Culture or class
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender identity
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) or disability
- Appearance or health conditions
- Related to home or other personal situation
- Related to another vulnerable group of people (Young Carers)
- Jealousy

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

Through our Positive Behaviour Policy we aim to encourage, reinforce and praise positive behaviour, thus creating an ethos where bullying is seen as totally unacceptable. We believe prevention is better than cure and expect all members of Welwyn St. Mary's to work together to create an environment where antisocial behaviour towards others is eradicated and where children have the confidence to believe in themselves, be assertive and achieve the outcomes that support all those involved in a positive way.

Reporting Bullying

Pupils who are being bullied: If a student is being bullied they are encouraged to not retaliate but to tell someone they trust about it such as a friend, family member or trusted adult. They are also encouraged to report any bullying incidents in school:

- Report to a teacher - such as a class teacher
- Tell an adult at home
- Report to a peer mediator
- Report to other school staff [Teaching assistants, lunch time supervisor]
- Call ChildLine to speak with someone in confidence on 0800 1111

Reporting – roles and responsibilities

Staff: All school staff, both teaching and non-teaching (for example midday supervisors, site manager, admin staff) have a duty to report bullying, to be vigilant to the signs of bullying and to play an active role in the school's efforts to prevent bullying. If staff are aware of bullying, they should reassure the pupils involved and inform a relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Senior staff: The Senior Leadership Team and the head teacher have overall responsibility for ensuring that the anti-bullying policy is followed by all members of staff and that the school upholds its duty to promote the safety and well-being of all young people. In addition to the designated anti-bullying lead, Sam Branch, is the Senior Leader responsible for anti-bullying.

Parents and Carers: Parents and carers should look out for potential signs of bullying such as distress, lack of concentration, feigning illness or other unusual behaviour. Parents and carers should tell 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, or by phoning or emailing the school office.

Pupils: Pupils should not take part in any kind of bullying and should watch out for potential signs of bullying among their peers. They are encouraged not to be bystanders to incidents of bullying. If pupils witness bullying they should support the victim, encourage them to report the bullying and, if possible, accompany them to tell a trusted adult.

Responding to bullying

In order to investigate whether bullying has occurred, Appendix 8 (Factors to help determine if incident constitutes bullying) will be referred to and used to judge the incident(s). All parties involved, including any witnesses or bystanders, will be interviewed, as well as consulting with any staff members and adults, who are familiar with the children, the incident and/or the relationships between the children involved. Using the determining factors from Appendix 8, the school will then decide if, on the balance of probabilities, the incident(s) constitutes bullying.

Once bullying has been established, the following actions will be taken:

- Staff will record the bullying on an incident reporting form (appendix 7) and also record the incident centrally in the school log (school office). This will involve hearing both parties
- Support will be offered to those who are the target of bullying from key adults in school, through the use of restorative justice or other programmes. This may involve both parties working directly together
- Staff will pro-actively respond to the bully, who may require support. They will discuss, with the class teacher of the other child involved to devise a plan of action/support, where applicable. The bully and any of his or her supporters may be brought together with or without parental approval.
- Staff will inform parents and carers, and involve them with any plans of action/support
- Staff will assess whether any other authorities (such as police or the local authority) need to be involved, particularly where actions take place outside school.
- Staff will monitor incident reporting forms and information recorded analysing and evaluating the results
- Headteacher will produce termly reports summarising the information, which will be reported to the governing body

Even in instances when bullying is not established, measures are still put in place to support individuals, where allegations have been made, and to support and repair any potentially fractured relationships between children.

Bullying outside school

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it takes place inside or outside of school. Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at the weekends or during the holidays, or in the wider community. The nature of cyber bullying in particular means that it can impact on students' well-being beyond the school day. Staff, parents and carers, and students must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report and respond according to their responsibilities as outlined in this policy.

Derogatory language

Derogatory or offensive language is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. This type of language can take any of the forms of bullying listed in our definition of bullying. It will be challenged by staff and recorded on a Time to Reflect sheet and monitored on the behaviour database and follow up actions and sanctions, if appropriate, will be taken for students and

staff found using any such language. Staff are also encouraged to record the casual use of derogatory language using informal mechanisms such as incident logs (appendix 5) and placed in pupil's individual file.

Prejudice-based incidents – see Appendix 6

A prejudice-based incident is an incident of unkind or hurtful behaviour that is motivated by a prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views towards a protected characteristic or minority group. It can be targeted towards an individual or group of people and have a significant impact on those targeted. All prejudice-based incidents are taken seriously and recorded and monitored in school, with the head teacher regularly reporting incidents to the governing body. This not only ensures that all incidents are dealt with accordingly, but also helps to prevent bullying as it enables targeted anti-bullying interventions.

School initiatives to prevent and tackle bullying

We use a range of measures to prevent and tackle bullying including:

- A student-friendly anti-bullying policy ensures all students understand and uphold the anti-bullying policy
- The PSHE programme of study includes opportunities for students to understand about different types of bullying and what they can do to respond and prevent bullying
- Whole-school and year group 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 such as Anti-bullying week, Black History Month and Feel Good week, Celebrating Diversity week.
- The school 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 students across the school
- Peer Mediating programmes offer support to all pupils including those who may not have been the target of bullying
- Restorative justice exercises provide support to targets of bullying and those who show bullying behaviour
- Pupils are continually involved in developing school wide anti bullying initiatives through consultation with groups (School Council, Worship Group, Pupil Voice, Peer Mediators)
- Working with parents and carers, and in partnership with community organisations, to tackle bullying where appropriate

Training

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that all school staff, both teaching and nonteaching receive regular training on all aspects of the anti-bullying policy.

Monitoring and reviewing

The head teacher 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 report. The

governors are in turn responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy via the termly report and by in-school monitoring such as learning walks and focus groups with pupils.

The policy is reviewed every year, in consultation with the whole school community including staff, students, parents and carers and governors.

POSITIVE HANDLING POLICY

Staff have agreed to follow the principles of Hertfordshire Steps regarding handling children in school. These are as follows:

Guiding and Escorting

Sometimes it may be necessary to guide children. All staff who have completed the Step On training have been trained how to do this in a way that does not harm the child or put anyone else at risk.

The most risk free way is to form a 'mitten' shape with the fingers and thumb and place just above the child's elbow. The elbow should NOT be held, so that the child is free to move away; any force exerted can only be by the child pushing back.

This can be extended to a more assertive 'escorting' position by standing side by side with the child and placing the 'mittens' on both of the child's elbows. The adult's shoulder should be behind the child to guide them. This position will lessen the risk of the child turning and lashing out. Both guides and escorts should be performed only if absolutely necessary, along with an explanation of the reasons for it and what other strategies had been tried first.

When a child is in a state where conflict is inevitable or already happening, adults must adopt an open body stance - 'side on' to the pupil and encourage the pupil to move by motioning with the hand which way to go. Calm stance and escorting should usually be used in conjunction with the de-escalation script, in order to remove a child calmly and assertively from a conflict situation.

Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI):

Very occasionally situations may occur where a child needs to be positively handled to prevent themselves or others from serious harm. If a child presents a foreseeable risk, school should prepare a risk assessment for them and seek advice from the Hertfordshire Steps Team.

There may be occasions where they need to use restraint, e.g. to stop a child running in front of a car, or other situations that involve immediate risk of harm. In all cases staff must use their best judgement and ensure that all actions are reasonable, proportionate and necessary.

Following an incident such as this, a risk assessment needs to be carried out and further training given. Children that require RPI will have individual risk assessments and behaviour plans.

TOUCH POLICY

At our school, we have a touch policy. This means that as a member of staff you are able to physically guide, touch or prompt children in appropriate ways at the appropriate times. It is extremely important that you have read and understood this policy to appreciate the reasons why we may choose to hold/touch children and the appropriate ways in which we do so.

Why Do We Use Touch?

We may need to physically touch, guide or prompt students if they require personal care, assistance with writing, eating, dressing and so on. At other times it may be appropriate to hug a child to offer comfort or reward.

How Do We Use Touch?

Hugging

At this school, staff may use touch for comfort or reward for the child. This is a sideways on hug, with the adult putting their hands on the child's shoulders. This discourages 'front on' hugging, and the adult's hands on the shoulders limits the ability of the child to turn themselves into you. This can be done either standing or sitting.

Hand-Holding

We recognise that children sometimes enjoy being able to hold hands with adults around them. This is acceptable when the hand holding is compliant. However, if the handholding is being used by an adult as a method of control to move children, this can become a restraint. It is generally deemed appropriate to touch others on the upper arm which would appear to be regarded as a neutral zone in most cultures.

Lap-Sitting

If a child attempts to sit on your lap, explain to them that this is not what we do here, and ask them to sit next to you.

At times, children may be in such crisis or distress that they hold you in a way that is not described above (e.g. 'front on' hug/lap sitting). If this should happen after an accident or serious incident, please ensure that you have informed a senior member of staff.

Please note that although we have a touch policy and believe that contingent touch can be a positive experience for the children that we care for, this does not mean that you have to touch children, and it should also be realised that some children will not want to be touched. Please respect this.

Time to reflect

What happened?

Which rule was broken?

Who was involved?

Who was upset/hurt?

What do you need to do to make it better?

What will you do differently next time?

Name_____ Date_____

Please complete when an incident has happened:

Subject: English ☐ Maths ☐ Science ☐ History/Geography ☐
Art/DT ☐ PE ☐ RE ☐ PSHCE ☐ GT ☐

Other (please specify)

Time: Before morning play ☐ Morning play ☐ Before lunch ☐
Lunchtime ☐ 13:00-14:15 ☐ 14:15-15:20 ☐

Other (please specify)

What was the incident?

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Disrespectful to adult | |
| Disrespectful to child | |
| Disruption to class | |
| Disruption to teaching | |
| Fighting | |
| Hurting | |
| Name calling | |
| Swearing | |
| Discriminatory incident | |

Action

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Notes (discussion with child/any other details etc.)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Parents informed ☐ SLT informed ☐

Discussion and form completed by.....Date.....

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Incident Log

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|-------|--|
| Date | | Reporting adult | | |
| Name of pupil | | | Class | |

What happened?

Who was involved?

Actions

Signature Date

Appendix 6:

Anti-discrimination procedures

Discrimination is not tolerated at Welwyn St Mary's Primary School.

These procedures are to be read in conjunction with Welwyn St Mary's Equalities Policy.

Definition

A discriminatory incident is any incident which is perceived to be discriminatory by the victim or any other person.

General

- All forms of discriminatory behaviour should and must be dealt with as a serious matter.
- Lack of intent does not excuse behaviour. Unintentional harassment should also be dealt with as a serious matter.
- A 'victim' does not have to be present or targeted for an incident of discriminatory behaviour to have occurred.
- Harassment includes 'subtle' behaviour such as isolation, ignoring, teasing and negative body language.
- All incidents of discriminatory behaviour should be challenged, including that of adults, not to respond may be seen to condone the behaviour and may result in serious incidents of retaliation.

Responding to *Discriminatory Incidents*

Members of staff should apply the Equality Policy and discrimination procedures consistently.

The perception of the person who has experienced harassment should be given priority.

The children should be initially spoken to individually. On some occasions, at a later stage, it may be appropriate to have a discussion of what happened and for each to share their feelings.

Procedure

The Victim

- Give the victim an immediate, sensitive and supportive response to the incident.
- Take their complaint seriously.

Person initially dealing with incident

- Allow a full expression of feelings.
- Find out what happened, at least in general terms.

- Agrees with the individual(s) what will happen next and/or when you will talk to them.
- Refer to Headteacher.

Head (or member of Leadership Team in Head's absence)

- Inform the parents of the child/children involved.
- Keep the victim informed throughout the process.
- Ensure that they know that you have dealt with the matter seriously.
- Report back to parents on the outcome of the investigation.
- Consider what further support/counselling may be needed and can be afforded beyond the specific incident.

The Offender

Person dealing with the incident:

- Finds out what happened, at least in general terms.
- Makes known to them the complaint and asks for their response.
- Agrees with the individual(s) what will happen next and/or when you will next talk to them.
- Speaks to all those who may have witnessed the incident and asks them to give an account of what they personally saw and heard.
- Refer to Headteacher

The Head

- Record incident in the "Discriminatory Incident File" housed in the School Office.

If it is clear that the complaint is upheld (including where it was unintentional):

- Define the unacceptable behaviour and explain to the offender why it is unacceptable.
- State clearly what change in behaviour you expect. Check the offender understands what you have explained.
- Agree what the offender is going to do, to re-dress the situation.
- Parents of the offender(s) involved to be informed of the situation.
- If appropriate/necessary notify the parents in writing of the school's expectations and possible consequences if the behaviour is repeated.
- Internal exclusion followed by external exclusion if repeated.

No child will be deemed 'guilty' on the uncorroborated word of another child. However, all incidents must still be recorded and the report sent to the Headteacher.

The broader school community

Ensure that the seriousness and unacceptability of any incident is communicated to all who have knowledge of it.

Ensure that the children more broadly involved in incidents, e.g. bystanders or witnesses, are actively involved in understanding:

- what has happened.
- their responsibility.

- their feelings about the incident.

This is often best dealt with through circle time. Remember, when issues of this nature are being dealt with by a class, individual's names are not used. It is the behaviour which we are rejecting not the child.

Unintentional Discriminatory Comments

Definition: Curious comments, questions or observations made or asked by a child which were not meant to be hurtful, but may be perceived to be discriminatory by another person.

Action:

- Discuss issue with all parties involved.
- Discuss with parents of both parties.
- Inform the Headteacher.
- Record incident in the 'Discriminatory Incident File' housed in the school office.

Reporting

The school's Discriminatory Incident File should be used for the reporting of all discriminatory incidents.

The Headteacher will monitor the number and type of incidents every term and submit details in their report to *Governors*, for discussion and action where appropriate.

Investigation into a hurtful or prejudice related incident or allegation of bullying

Completed by name and role:

Date:

Name and role of individual/s making the allegation e.g. pupil, parent/carers, midday supervisory assistant:

Form of referral e.g. verbal report, letter, e-mail, phone call:

Details gathered to date:

Action taken to date:

Date:

Signed:

Appendix 8:

1. Focus of Bullying/Harassment

Factors to help determine if incident constitutes bullying

☐ Incident was bullying (all 3 amber warnings confirmed)

- ☐ Hurt has been deliberately/knowingly caused (physically or emotionally)
- ☐ It is a repeated incident or experience e.g. multiple incidents, cyberbullying or the involvement of a group
- ☐ Involves an imbalance of power:
 - target feels s/he cannot defend her/himself, or
 - perpetrator/s exploiting their power (size, age, popularity, coolness, abusive language, labelling/namecalling, etc.)

☐ Incident was not bullying on this occasion because it was

- ☐ the first hurtful incident between these children
- ☐ teasing/banter between friends without intention to cause hurt (should not happen again)
- ☐ falling out between friends after a quarrel, disagreement or misunderstanding
- ☐ conflict that got out of hand (should not happen again)
- ☐ activities that all parties have consented to and enjoyed (check for subtle coercion)
 - got out of hand
 - parental concern
- ☐ Other _____

The definition of a prejudice related incident

A prejudice related incident is any incident which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be prejudiced towards an individual due to one or more of the protected characteristics of age, disability, faith, gender identity/reassignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity status, race, sex or sexual orientation.

Resolution process agreed:

Support and/or sanction for those causing hurt or offence:

Support needed for the hurt party:

Focus of Bullying/Hurtful Behaviour

Please tick all elements which apply in your understanding of the incident(s) and record specific language:

| | Definitely applies | Possibly applies |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| Age/ Maturity | | |
| Appearance | | |
| Size/weight | | |
| Class/Socio-economic | | |
| Family circumstance (e.g. caring role) | | |
| Ethnicity/Race | | |
| Religion/Belief/faith | | |
| Gender | | |
| Transphobia/Gender identity | | |
| Homophobia/sexuality | | |
| Sexualised | | |
| SEN and Disability | | |
| Ability/application | | |



Welwyn St Mary's C of E Primary School

"Believe and Achieve"

Our School: What we want it to be like.

A happy, safe, respectful school where we can learn and do our best.

How we should behave and why?

Come in to class calm and quietly after lunch and playtime ready to learn.

Walk around school to keep safe.

Use our manners to show respect to others.

Listen during learning time, either on the carpet or at our tables so we can focus on what we are supposed to be doing.

Our Golden Rules

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Aim High

What happens when we make positive choices?

Learning

Personal satisfaction
Praise from my teacher
House points
Golden Book Certificate
Badges for effort and achievements
Good learning shown to other members of staff

Good Choices

Verbal praise
Class attendance
House points
Class/school responsibilities
Stickers



Other Rewards

House points
House Trophy
Attendance Trophy
Marble Jar
Badges
Golden Book
Golden Table
Class rewards
Praise - both public and private
Positive Postcards

What happens when we make negative choices?

Learning

Completing tasks
Rehearsing
Assisting with repairs/tying
Research
Educational opportunities
Conversation and exploration

Protective

Missed break time
Limited access to outside
Escorted in social circumstances
Differentiated teaching space
Restricted participation in school events

Reflect, Repair, Restore

Social Stories
Reflective area
Role Play with teddy bears/dolls etc.
Use signs/symbols
Time to reflect

Our Charter

We are kind, helpful and polite to everyone.

We always listen carefully and do our best.

We believe in ourselves and others and want to achieve the best of our abilities.

We respect and look after our own, other people's and school property.

We behave in a safe way in the classroom and around the school.

Created by School Council 2022

L. L. Michelle

Jay

Rafi

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Q. E. M. G. B. Billy