

The Cornwall Independent School

ANTI-BULLYING (COUNTERING BULLYING) POLICY AND STRATEGIES INCLUDING ANNEX RE: ICT-BASED FORMS OF ABUSE

This document which applies to the whole school, including the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), is available on request, from the School Office, and can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required, from the School Office.

We have a whole school approach to safeguarding, which is the golden thread that runs throughout every aspect of the school. All our school policies support our approach to safeguarding (child protection). Our fundamental priority is our children and their wellbeing; this is first and foremost.

Scope: This policy is a live document that is sensitive to our working practices and is subject to change according to the needs of The Cornwall Independent School (TCIS). All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy and its procedures both within and outside of normal school hours, including activities away from school. All employees and volunteers are required to state that they have read, understood and will abide by this policy and its procedural documents and confirm this by signing the *Policies Register*.

Legal Status: Complies with The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations currently in force and other statutory and best practice documentation cited in this document.

Monitoring, Review and Adaptation: The text of this policy is **necessary** and proportionate to meet the needs of The Cornwall Independent School, supporting those who work with our pupils, **making clearer** the responsibilities of school staff, volunteers, proprietor and the Governing Advisory Body. These arrangements are subject to continuous monitoring, refinement, and audit by the Headteacher. The Governance Advisory Body is committed to regularly reviewing and updating our policies to ensure they remain relevant and effective in supporting our school's mission and values, inclusive of its implementation and the efficiency with which the related duties have been implemented. This review will be formally documented in writing. Any deficiencies or weaknesses recognised in arrangements or procedures will be remedied immediately and without delay. All staff will be informed of the updated/reviewed arrangements, and it will be made available to them in writing or electronically.

The Policy Owner is Miss Louise Adams & Miss Jayne Chapman, supported by the Education and Compliance Officer.

Reviewed: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027 (or sooner, to reflect any material change in statutory or best practice requirements)



Miss Louise Adams
Headteacher

Related Documents:

This policy complies with, The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations currently in force, [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (DfE: September 2026) along with a reference to:

- [Part 3, paragraph 10 of The Education \(Independent School Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2014](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying \(DfE: July 2026\), Cyber bullying: advice for headteachers and school staff \(DfE: 2014 and Advice for parents and carers on cyber bullying \(DfE: 2014\)](#)
- [Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#) (July 2026)
- [Cyberbullying: Advice for headteachers and school staff](#) (2014)

Prepared with reference to:

- [Protecting children from bullying and cyber bullying \(NSPC: updated February, 2022\), Preventing and Tackling Bullying: Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies \(DfE-DfE: 2022\)\)](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE September 2026\)](#)
- [Behaviour in schools - Advice for headteachers and school staff](#) (DfE, 2024)
- Has regard to the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

Designated Member of Staff responsible for Anti-Bullying:

Miss Louise Adams, Headteacher, has overall responsibility for managing anti-bullying works in conjunction with the Head of Pastoral Care Mrs Clare Hawkins (DSL). Additionally with the Deputy Head Jayne Chapman, they have oversight of Behaviour Management at the School.

Statement of Intent:

Our School is committed to providing a caring, friendly, safe and secure environment for all of our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere without anxiety. Bullying is unacceptable at our school. We do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable. We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the minimisation of bullying in our School. If bullying does occur, all children 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. Posters to this effect are displayed in the school. All adult members of our school community, whether staff, parent, or volunteer, should be vigilant, recognising where bullying is taking place, and deal with it thoroughly and with sensitivity.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, that "intentionally hurts another pupil or group physically or emotionally and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example, on grounds of race, religion, culture, sex, gender, homophobia, special educational needs and disability, or because a child is adopted or is a carer – it may occur directly or through cyber-technology (social websites, mobile phones, text messages, photographs and email)." Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority, but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; ([Preventing and Tackling Bullying 2026](#)).

Bullying is an extremely serious matter. It can cause psychological damage and even lead to suicide. It should be borne in mind that criminal laws may be invoked in cases of harassment and threatening behaviour. Peer on peer abuse is a focus of more recent editions of Keeping Children Safe in Education and is considered central to this Anti-Bullying Policy. While a clear focus of child-on-child abuse is around sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation rituals and/or violence from pupils can also be abusive. These are equally not tolerated at The Cornwall Independent School and will be treated both as a safeguarding matter and will give rise to disciplinary action. If it is believed that a crime has been committed, it will be reported to the police. A bullying incident should be treated as a child protection (safeguarding) concern where there is "reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer, significant harm." In this case, all of the safeguarding procedures are invoked, including submitting an initial concern form to the DSL, who will action the report in accordance with the school's Safeguarding (Child Protection Policy) the LADO will advise on escalation of the case and the involvement of the Police and/or Children's Social Care.

A Potentially Criminal Activity:

Though bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of

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harassing or threatening behaviour - or communications - could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986. If as a school, we feel that an offence may have been committed we would seek assistance from the police

Bullying – Child Protection Related Issues:

A bullying incident is treated as a child protection concern when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. In such cases the school reports its concerns to the [Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub \(MASSH\)](#) on 0300 123 1116 during office hours or the out-of-hours Duty Team (evenings and weekends) on 01208 251300. Any kind of bullying is unacceptable.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional (indirect bullying) - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures), deliberately excluding from social groups or an activity, or malicious rumours, e-mails or text messages (visual image abuse - real or manipulated images)
- Physical harm or its threat - pushing, kicking, hitting, taking or hiding belongings, punching or any use of violence; deliberately destroying or damaging work or possessions or removing property
- Cyber-Bullying – not occurring face to face but rather through electronic means including, but not limited to, social networking sites, internet and intranet sites, email, instant messaging, by mobile phone including through text messages and phone calls, photographs both real and manipulated etc
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Cultural – focusing on and/or playing off perceived cultural differences
- Sexist – covers a wide range of behaviour from name calling to physical sexual assault. It is the use of sexual language or negative stereotyping on the basis of gender
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - This is bullying, which is directed towards people who are openly gay, bisexual, transgender, are perceived as gay, or show characteristics (heterosexual young people subject to homophobic bullying are less reluctant to report it as this may enforce the stereotypical way that they are already viewed by others, so sensitivity and positive support is required for victims)
- Transgender – bullying children who are considering going through, are going through or have gone through, gender reassignment
- Religious - Attacking faith, belief, religious practice or custom
- Disability - remarking upon, drawing attention to, or discriminating against persons with disability including mental disabilities or learning difficulties
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Written – on paper
- Discriminatory bullying of protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 including pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership

Bullying can also include initiation / hazing type violence and rituals. (Please see our Child Protection Policy)

We believe that all children and staff should be able to work and play without any fear of being bullied by any other person. Bullying is not tolerated and all accusations are to be taken seriously and dealt with. Bullying can take place between pupil and pupil, staff and staff or staff and pupil. We consider the pastoral care of the staff and children to be of prime importance. In class this role largely rests with the class teacher. It is school policy that any misdemeanour will be dealt with by the member of staff present when it occurs, whether in the playground, classroom, cloakroom or any part of the school. A common code of behaviour is expected from everyone in the school (see Behaviour Policy). All staff and volunteers at The Cornwall Independent School are expected to treat each other with a professional level of respect.

We have clear procedures to follow including who to tell and how to record bullying to enable patterns to be identified. We raise awareness of staff through training, so that the principles of the school policy are understood, legal responsibilities are known, action is defined to resolve and prevent problems and sources of support are available. We take action to reduce the risk of bullying at times and in places where it is most likely. We invest in specialised skills to understand the needs of the children, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, and 'lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender' (LGB&T) pupils.

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	attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
doesn't want to go on the school / public bus	cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
begs to be driven to school	feels ill in the morning
changes their usual routine	begins to do poorly in schoolwork
is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)	comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
begins to truant	has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence	asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
starts stammering	has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
has unexplained cuts or bruises	is bullying other children or siblings
becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable	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. Children are encouraged to share their concerns with the adults responsible for them. Staff will consult with the Headteacher or other Senior Management knowing that their response will be sympathetic and appropriate.

The Role of Pupils:

If any pupil is being bullied or someone who is being bullied is identified, they should report what is happening to someone else. If they feel uncertain about taking this step, they may want to talk informally first to:

- Their parents
- Their form teacher, class teacher or any other adult in school
- Teaching assistants or auxiliary staff
- A senior pupil
- The Headteacher, Deputy headteacher
- Childline (0800 11 11)

All of these people will be happy to listen and help. We share this information regularly with our pupils through assemblies, class discussions and our PSHEE curriculum.

Reporting a bully does NOT count as 'telling tales'.

Bullying can only be stopped if someone is told.

Everyone has an important duty to help stop bullying, even as a bystander.

What Should Pupils Tell an Adult?

Who has been bullying you?	How long has this been going on?
How many times has this happened to you?	Has anyone seen this happen? If so, who?
Has anyone else been bullied by the same person?	Have you told anyone else about this before?
Was anything done about it?	Have you done anything unhelpful that has not helped the situation?

What Should a Pupil Do If They Witness Bullying?

- Tell an adult in school
- Inform one of the Anti-bullying ambassadors or a prefect who will then inform an adult without delay.

What Should Parents Do About Bullying?

Inform the School if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other children. Try to establish the facts and keep an open mind. The symptoms at home of children being bullied or who are bullying can sometimes be very similar. With older children it might be useful to refer to this policy and the Home-School Agreement. Parents who are concerned that their child is being bullied or bullying, should contact their child's class teacher or the Headteacher immediately. Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

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. Bullying children need to learn different ways of behaving. The school has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Bullying is an extremely serious matter. It can cause psychological damage and even lead to suicide. It is worth remembering that in certain cases bullying can constitute harassment and threatening behaviour and as such is in principle subject to criminal sanctions, demonstrating how serious it is. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Handling of a bullying incident is given much thought to ensure that the facts are fully known, agreed and understood by the bully/ies and the victim(s). All children in our school will be informed about bullying. They will be made aware that we are a 'telling school' They must tell an adult if they or someone else is being bullied and that this is not telling tales. Children will be encouraged to talk to their class teacher, Headteacher, support staff or parents.

The Role of the Headteacher:

The Headteacher supports the staff in minimising bullying in our School. All incidents of bullying are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately. The Headteacher monitors bullying and reviews the school policy regularly. The Headteacher keeps records as required. The Headteacher implements the school anti-bullying strategy and ensures that staff are aware of the policy and know how to deal with bullying. The Headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable. The Headteacher ensures that staff receive sufficient training to deal with bullying. The Headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is less likely.

Upskirting:

In 2019 the Voyeurism Offences Act came into force and made the practice of upskirting illegal. Although we do not permit pupils to have mobile phones at school, and only digital cameras with express permission, we must ensure we are alert to the possibility that this could happen here. Upskirting is defined as someone taking a picture under another person's clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks, with or without underwear. The intent of upskirting is to gain sexual gratification or to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. These are forms of bullying. If this is between pupils, we will follow the child-on-child abuse procedure. If staff in the school are made aware that upskirting has occurred, then this will be treated as a sexual offence and reported accordingly. It is a safeguarding concern and must be reported to the DSL immediately. There are behaviours that would be considered as sexual harassment which may be precursors to upskirting. The use of reflective surfaces or mirrors to view underwear or genitals will not be tolerated, and the school will respond to these with appropriate disciplinary action and education.

Pupils who place themselves in positions that could allow them to view underwear, genitals or buttocks, will be moved and given appropriate guidance about their behaviour. Parents may be informed. Repeat offenders will be disciplined. These locations could include stairwells, outside changing areas and toilets or sitting on the floor or laying down in corridors. If technology that is designed for covert placement and could be used to take upskirting or indecent images is discovered in the school, it will be confiscated. If the technology is in location and potentially may have captured images, this will be reported to the police and left in situ so that appropriate forensic measures can be taken to gather evidence. Any confiscated technology will be passed to the Headteacher to make a decision about what happens to the items and will be carried out under the principles set out in the government guidance on searching, screening and confiscation. If the image is taken on a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated under the same principles. This may need to be passed to the police for them to investigate, if there is evidence that a crime has been committed.

Prevent, Channel and FGM:

An element of peer coercion (a form of bullying) may be present in attempts to radicalise pupils, this may present as cyber-bullying, through use of the internet and social media. In this circumstance the school would consider the involvement of Channel, and report to the police and appropriate bodies as detailed in the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy. There may be an element of peer coercion involved in FGM, with a similar cyber-bullying dimension, and staff should also follow all of the relevant safeguarding processes.

The School's Aims with Regard to Bullying:

- To make clear to children, staff, parents and guardians that bullying is unacceptable.

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- To encourage openness in which children, staff and parents act immediately if there is any suspicion of bullying.
- To provide a clear framework for dealing with incidents of bullying.
- To educate children in resisting bullying.
- To support those being bullied and a framework within which those bullying others may recognise and reform their behaviour.
- To instil in all members of the school community a sense of caring and kindness for one another in accordance with the school's ethos.
- To ensure that as a result of staff being respectful towards children at all times, children will internalise and model these human encounters and thus treat each other respectfully.
- To ensure that the adults in the children's world do not endeavour to diminish children so that they lose respect amongst their peer group but rather enhance them, so as to continue to develop their self-esteem.
- To promote a transparency in human relationships so that children, by default, are held to account for the feelings they may evoke in others.
- Pupils who report bullying incidents involving their peers will be reassured that they have taken the correct action and that no repercussions will result.

All staff must be alert to the signs of bullying. These could include:

- Verbal taunts;
- Children sitting on their own;
- Children being left out of activity groups during lessons;
- Reluctance to come to school or take part in activities.

Teachers are encouraged to adopt the following responses:

- We watch for early signs of distress in children.
- We listen, believe and act when a child tells us that he or she is being bullied.
- We intervene to stop the child who is bullying from harming the other child or children.
- We explain to the child doing the bullying why his or her behaviour is unacceptable.
- We give reassurance to the child or children who have been bullied.
- We help the child who has done the bullying to recognise the impact of his or her actions.
- We talk privately with the offending individual(s);
- We intervene to defuse a blatant act of bullying.

SEND and Cared for Children:

We are particularly aware of the need to support these children, who may be particularly vulnerable in situations where bullying takes place. In particular we will ensure that they understand what to do if they feel they are being bullied and enable them to express their concerns if their communication skills make it difficult for them to do so.

Reporting:

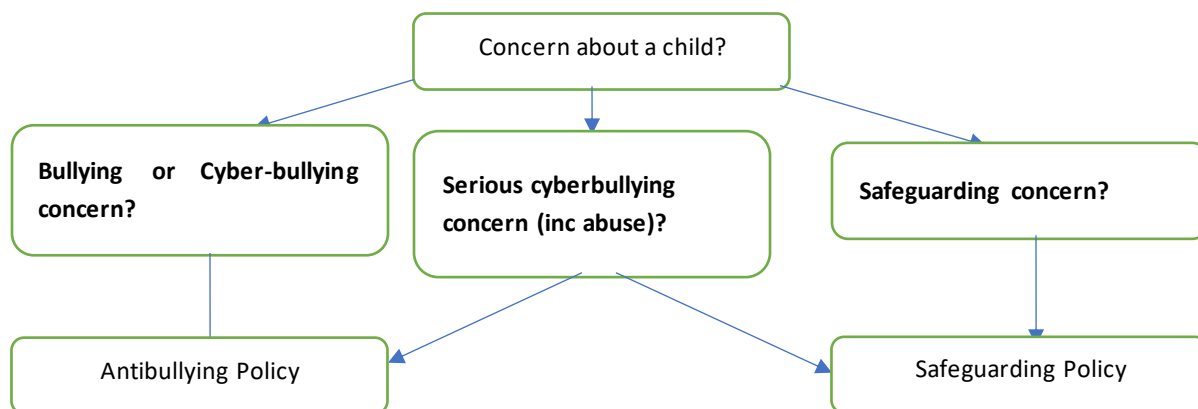
All cases of bullying, or suspected bullying, should be referred to the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The Anti-Bullying log of incident form should be filled in.

Concerns flow chart:

In accordance with KCSIE (DfE: Sept 2026), the main placement and details regarding Cyberbullying are now embedded within our Anti-Bullying policy. This is because how it is responded to, will align with all other types of bullying (unless there are specific safeguarding concerns, which refers back to the Safeguarding Child Protection Policy).

In our Online Safety Policy, reference is made to Cyber-bullying (e.g. the definition and that our response is in line with our Anti-bullying policy) which then signposts to our main antibullying policy.

In our Safeguarding Policy, reference is made to cyber-bullying and online sexual/non-sexual abuse and how these issues will be responded to (referencing the Anti-bullying policy) dependent on that case.



The Anti-Bullying log of incident Form:

These details are now logged on the CPOMS system, and these are monitored and actioned by members of the SLT. Any issues recorded should include details of date, time, lesson or activity, perpetrators, victim, staff and/or reporting person, any witnesses. It requires the person completing the form to select all of the features of the incident which are present from the following list:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| • Verbal abuse | • Racist | • Social networking |
| • Spreading rumours | • Sexual | • Text message |
| • Teasing | • Homophobic/LGBT | • Email |
| • Damaging/taking possessions | • Religious | • Other forms of bullying including other forms of cyber bullying |
| • Threatening | • Criticism of family/carers | |
| • Physical abuse | • Preventing work/homework | |

Further details are elicited, including:

- whether the incident was isolated or part of a pattern
- the date and time of the call when the parents of the perpetrator(s) victim were informed
- the action taken and sanction imposed on the perpetrator; remedial support planned
- the action taken and support provided for victim
- whether the incident was reported to the police or social services using safeguarding procedures
- Exclusion from activity

The DSL and/or Headteacher are responsible for coordinating and monitoring the response to a bullying incident and will arrange support and reviewing processes. Information regarding bullying incidents will be shared with the whole staff at Staff Meetings. The Headteacher monitors entries in the Behaviour and Discipline Log and the Anti-Bullying Log of Incidents each week to enable patterns to be identified and effective response planned.

Sanctions may include withdrawal from favoured activities or loss of playtimes and are broadly in line with the scale of sanctions as detailed in the Behaviour and Discipline Log. If bullying persists, the parents of the perpetrator and victim are called to discuss the situation with the Headteacher. In rare cases, children who bully may be excluded.

Anti-Bullying Strategies Adopted by this School:

- Acknowledges the problem. Bullying happens everywhere in our society, including the staff room.
- Asking children what they feel constitutes bullying. Discussions about what is and is not bullying can help form the basis for the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Has a whole school approach in which children, staff and parents work together to create an environment where bullying is not tolerated.
- We involve our pupils in anti-bullying activities within the classroom through our PSHEE Curriculum (including assemblies, projects, drama and the discussion of differences between people and the importance of avoiding prejudice-based language).
- The Cornwall Independent School finds ways to help those who are bullying change their behaviour. Punishing bullies doesn't end bullying. It is important to stress that it is the behaviour that is not liked, rather than the person.

- Support schemes that encourage children to make friends. Having friends is one of the best defences against bullying, but not everyone has the right social skills to make friends easily. Teaching assertiveness skills and confidence-building to the class may be a way to help children make friends.
- There are strategies for introducing new children to The Cornwall Independent School.
- Senior pupils lodge their mobile phones with the School Office during the school day to prevent inappropriate use.
- We involve our pupils in anti-bullying activities within the classroom. Using these educational elements, we discuss differences between people and the importance of avoiding prejudice-based language.
- In the early years, opportunities arise during child-initiated activities for staff to model: how to negotiate and deal with conflict, what to do if a friend is upset and what to do if you have upset someone.

Listening and speaking skills to express appropriately how we feel:

Assemblies are delivered by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and class teachers. Pupils also devise class assemblies which may feature respect for diversity, justice, role models and other concepts which contribute to our whole school rejection of bullying. Key stage specific assemblies are delivered by the Headteacher and are age appropriate, examples being:

- An EYFS/KS1 assembly showing the Allen Adventure where Allen learned to take turns fairly.
- A KS3/4 age specific assembly promoting resilience, which focused on the tennis player Andy Murray and resilience, exemplified by overcoming negative press comments and developing supportive peer groups.
- In another assembly, pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4 were also shown the Anti-bullying Incident Log reporting form and reminded of the forms that bullying can take, and their responsibility, as senior members of the school, to report any suspected bullying.
- A KS3/4 form time following a newspaper item about a transgender person who was changing gender identity, the learning intention being to understand and avoid prejudice against a protected characteristic.

EYFS

Circle time in Reception often involves discussion of how to be kind, what to do if someone upsets you, and sharing. Teachers support all children in their class to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

PCSHEE

Our PCSHEE Long Term Planning supports our anti-bullying strategy. Examples of how we embed anti-bullying in the curriculum are:

Year 1/2

Right and Wrong, communities, rights, respects and responsibilities.

Year 3/4

Staying Safe, communities, right and wrong.

Year 5/6

Risk taking and dealing with pressure, relationships and practicing skills to deal with relationships.

Year 7/8/9

How do we deal with conflict, risk taking and dealing with pressure, feelings and relationships, body image and the media and potential dangers in social media.

Year 10/11

Relationships Brook Advisory, religion and prejudice, religion war and peace and human rights

ICT

The ICT Co-ordinator Ms K Huthnance is responsible for educating the pupils in the safe use of IT as part of the Anti-bullying Strategy. The school provides a filtered Internet service, and pupils are taught and encouraged to be responsible and aware when accessing Internet resources. Discussion on cyberbullying reinforces that cyberbullying by any member of the school community is not tolerated. Rules for Internet access are posted in all rooms where computers are used.

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Training

The DSL has attended CEOPS training Missing the Exploitation which dealt with child sexual exploitation and online bullying. Safeguarding training, including anti-bullying is cascaded to staff when the DSL and DDSL attend courses. Staff are reminded at staff meetings about anti-bullying procedures and contribute to reviews of incidents. Ms K Huthnance attends courses on online safety and cascades training to the staff.

Liaison

We liaise with other schools, the police, parents, CAMHS, Children's Social Care, Scallywags and other outside agencies, to minimise the risk of bullying in the wider community and involve these parties if bullying occurs.

Monitoring

The Advisory Board member with responsibility for Safeguarding monitors the implementation of the Anti-bullying Policy. He speaks to staff and pupils on his regular visits to ensure that they understand what to do if bullying occurs this is part of his wider duty as Safeguarding monitor.

ICT-Based Forms of Abuse (including Cyber-Bullying)

(This section of the policy was specifically prepared with reference to DfE guidance.)

Introduction:

Information and communication technology (ICT)-based forms of child physical, sexual and emotional abuse can include bullying via mobile telephones or online (internet) with verbal and visual messages. This annex deals with child sexual abuse. Our ICT Co-ordinator's most recent training highlighted the dangers of 'County Lines' grooming of teenagers as drug couriers and its prevalences. However, the procedure will be followed in other instances of ICT-based abuse e.g. physical abuse (such as, children being constrained to fight each other or filmed being assaulted).

Recognition and Response:

The impact on a child of ICT-based sexual abuse is similar to that for all sexually abused children, however, it has an additional dimension, as there is a visual record of the abuse. ICT-based sexual abuse of a child constitutes significant harm through sexual and emotional abuse. Recognition and response is recognising a situation where a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, a degree of physical sexual and/or emotional harm (through abuse or neglect) which is so harmful that there needs to be compulsory intervention by child protection agencies into the life of the child and their family.

All adults (volunteers, staff) working with children, adults and families will be alerted to the possibility that:

- A child may already have been/is being, abused and the images distributed on the internet or by mobile telephone;
- An adult or older child may be grooming a child for sexual abuse, including for involvement in making abusive images. This process can involve the child being shown abusive images;
- An adult or older child may be viewing and downloading child sexual abuse images.

All staff are alert to the signs that a child may be at risk of may have been abused online and will follow the school's child protection procedures (Please see our Child Protection Policy for more details).

Online Safety:

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre, 33 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2WG Tel: 0370 496 7622 Email: communication@nca.xgsi.gov.uk brings together law enforcement officers, specialists from children's charities and industry to tackle online child sexual abuse. CEOP provides a dedicated 24-hour online facility for reporting instances of online child sexual abuse. The main concern for teachers is the safe and effective supervision of pupils using the internet in school. The CEOP website is an invaluable source of information and resources concerned with e-safety. However, many pupils now use the internet at home for homework and socialising, therefore the staff will need to help the parents understand the positive ways in which the internet can be used but also some of the associated risks. The website www.becta.org.uk outlines clearly the requirements of a school to control the pupil's internet viewing and instate 'Acceptable Use Policies'.

Grooming and Offline Abuse:

Our staff will need to be continually alert to any suspicious activity involving computers and the internet. Grooming of children online is a faster process than usual grooming, and totally anonymous. The abuser develops a 'special' relationship with the

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child online (often adopting a false identity), which remains a secret to enable an offline meeting to occur in order for the abuser to harm the child.

Cyber-bullying:

Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself. This is the use of mobile phones, social networking sites, internet or other modern communication technologies to embarrass, humiliate, threaten, or intimidate someone. The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school.

(ChildNet) Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying that can happen 24/7, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click. Wider search powers included in the 2011 Education Act give schools stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by providing a specific power to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones.

Here are some examples of cyber-bullying:

- **Text message bullying** – sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
- **Picture/video clip bullying via mobile phone cameras** or webcam, including Upskirting including sending or posting messages or images of the victim without their explicit consent.
- **Phone call bullying** – can include silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible.
- **Email bullying** – sending bullying or threatening messages, often using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- **Chat room bullying** – involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- **Bullying through instant messaging (IM)** – where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- **Bullying via social networking websites** – includes the insulting blogs, personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyber-bullying (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc).
- **Sexting** (also called youth-generated sexual imagery) – young people (under 18) who share sexual imagery of themselves, or peers, are breaking the law. There is, unfortunately, scope for this fact to be exploited as bullying.

Cyberbullying differs from "ordinary" bullying and can have a far greater impact because of a number of factors including:

- invasion of personal space – the victim can never escape it; the potential anonymity of the bully;
- The ability to broadcast upsetting messages and images rapidly to a potentially huge audience and to continue to do so repeatedly over a long period of time;
- Other pupils, who may not normally become involved in bullying behaviour, may be drawn in unwittingly by, for example, forwarding or circulating an image or message.

Pupils should remember the following:

- Always respect others - be careful what you say online and what images you send.
- Think before you send - whatever you send can be made public very quickly and could stay online forever.
- Don't retaliate or reply online.
- Save the evidence - learn how to keep records of offending messages, pictures or online conversations. Ask someone if you are unsure how to do this. This will help to show what is happening and can be used by the school to investigate the matter.
- Block the bully. Most social media websites and online or mobile services allow you block someone who is behaving badly.
- Don't do nothing - if you see cyberbullying going on, support the victim and report the bullying.

We will offer parents information sessions on the dangers of cyber-bullying and on-line child protection issues at regular intervals. Our ICT Co-ordinator has a duty to deliver age-appropriate guidance and information on cyber-bullying to all of our pupils.

Online Forms of Abuse (Also see our Safeguarding Child Protection Policy):

Information and communication technology (ICT)-based forms of child physical, sexual and emotional abuse can include bullying via mobile telephones or online (internet) with verbal and visual messages. This can also include child sexual abuse. All staff are alert to the signs that a child may be at risk of may have been abused online and will follow the school's child protection procedures (Please see our Child Protection Policy for more details).

The Cornwall Independent School (UK) Ltd is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

Some cyber-bullying could constitute a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act (1997), the Malicious Communications Act (1988) and Communications Act (2003) and the Public Order Act (1986). We will offer parents information sessions on the dangers of cyber-bullying and on-line child protection issues at regular intervals. Our ICT Co-ordinator has a duty to deliver age-appropriate guidance and information on cyber-bullying to all of our pupils.

Responding to Cyber-Bullying:

If the school were to find that a member of the school community was involved in cyber bullying, our approach would follow the same procedures as the other types of bullying identified, including our child protection procedures where appropriate. This may include working with the police in serious cases.

Prejudice-Based Bullying (because of a protected characteristic):

This is defined in Preventing and Tackling Bullying (July 2026) as bullying related to an individual or group on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Any bullying on the basis of protected characteristics is taken particularly seriously.

Anti-Bullying Code

Principles:

Every person has the **RIGHT** to feel secure and happy at The Cornwall Independent School. Our School Community will not tolerate any unkind actions or remarks. Any unkind actions or comments will be called bullying.

- No child should suffer verbal abuse.
- No child should suffer physical violence.
- No child should feel victimised by another.
- No child should feel excluded from activities.
- Every child has a **RESPONSIBILITY** to ensure that harassment is not tolerated.
- Every child is **ENTITLED** to the respect of others.
- Staff guarantee to take bullying seriously and deal with each incident appropriately and discreetly.
- Persistent offenders may be excluded, in extreme cases, permanently.
- Bullying is one aspect of behaviour which causes hurt and anxiety to children.
- Bullying is an issue which often causes parents' concern.
- A child is considered to be a bully if she/he knowingly commits unkind acts towards another individual
- Bullying may include: -
 - Physical harm or the threat of physical harm.
 - Destroying, damaging or hiding property.
 - Spreading rumours.
 - Name calling or teasing.
 - Deliberately excluding someone from an activity.

Although bullying implies intent, accidental incidents of this sort are to be taken seriously, requiring appropriate educational responses.

Further resources:

Some excellent resources are to be found in the following locations:

- [The Anti-Bullying Alliance](#). Founded by NSPCC and National Children's Bureau, the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) brings together over 100 organisations into one network to develop and share good practice across the whole range of bullying issues.
- [Childnet International](#). Particular expertise and guidance on internet safety and cyber-bullying prevention.
- [Kidscape](#). Charity established to prevent bullying and promote child protection providing advice for young people, professionals and parents about different types of bullying and how to tackle it. They also offer specialist training and support for school staff, and assertiveness training for young people.
- [The Bullying Intervention Group \(BIG\)](#): offer a national scheme and award for schools to tackle bullying effectively.

Recording of Bullying Incidents:

Staff at The Cornwall Independent School create and maintain a written log on the Child Protection Management System (CPOMS) of all incidents of bullying, thus enabling staff to identify patterns in bullying from the written records if there are any. Incidents based on protected characteristics are distinguished in written records. This facilitates monitoring of success in meeting of other standards, for example instilling values of tolerance and respect and actively promoting the wellbeing of pupils

We are a 'telling' School - bullying is too serious not to report.

APPENDIX A – STAFF PROTOCOL FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES OF BULLYING

