



# **Meadows First School**

## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Date: February 2023

Date of review: February 2025

Head Teacher: S Hewitt

Chair of Governors: A Lynch

# Meadows First School

## Anti Bullying Policy

### Statement of Intent

This school believes that:

- Bullying is undesirable and unacceptable.
- Bullying is a problem to which solutions can be found.
- Seeking help and openness are regarded as signs of strength not weakness.
- All members of our community will be listened to and taken seriously.
- Everyone has the right to enjoy and achieve in an atmosphere that is free from fear.
- All of us have a responsibility to ensure that we do not abuse or bully others.
- Children should talk to an adult, with the support of another child if appropriate, if they are worried about bullying and have a right to expect that their concerns will be listened to and treated seriously. If an adult working in school feels that they themselves are being bullied, they should consult the grievance policy.
- Children should be involved in decision making about matters that concern them.
- We all have a duty to work together to protect vulnerable individuals from bullying and other forms of abuse.

We believe in tackling bullying by encouraging an environment where individuality is celebrated and individuals can develop without fear.

### Consultation Process

This policy is the result of a process of consultation with the following groups from across our community.

- Children
- Governors
- Parents
- Castle Kids Club

### Review of Policy

In line with all policies, this policy will be reviewed after 2 years – It may also be reviewed and amended, in consultation with all stakeholders, in light of events or experience. The Stakeholders of this policy are children, staff, parents and carers, governors, and people from other organisations involved with the life of Meadows First School (including before/after school clubs, transport staff etc).

Data from the monitoring and recording of incidents (including 'nil' returns) will also inform policy review and will be seen by governors.

### Definition of Terms

#### What is Bullying?

Bullying is the calculated and often systematic, chosen actions of intimidation by a single child or group of children, towards one or more children. These actions usually happen with frequency over a period of time.

### Aims and Objectives

#### The aim of our anti-bullying policy

As a result of our consultation, our stakeholders prioritised the following aims:

- To assist in creating an ethos in which attending Meadows First School is a positive experience for all members of our community.
- To make it clear that all forms of bullying are unacceptable at Meadows First School.
- To enable everyone to feel safe while at Meadows First School and encourage children to report incidents of bullying.
- To deal with each incident of bullying as effectively as possible, taking into consideration the needs of all parties and of our community, and, as a result, to reduce the incidents of bullying.
- To support and protect victims of bullying and ensure they are listened to.
- To help and support children displaying bullying behaviour to change their attitudes and understand why it needs to change.
- To liaise with parents and other appropriate members of the school community.
- To ensure all members of our community feel responsible for helping to reduce bullying.
- To equip all staff with the skills and information necessary to deal with incidents of bullying.
- To involve the wider school community (e.g. midday supervisors, part-time staff/volunteers) in dealing effectively with, and if necessary referring bullying incidents.
- To ensure that all incidents of bullying are recorded and appropriate use is made of the information, where appropriate sharing it with relevant organisations.
- To promote emotional health and wellbeing across the whole school and for all members of our community to role-model this in all situations.

## **Practice and Procedures**

### **What we do to prevent bullying**

Everyone involved in the life of the school must take responsibility for promoting a common anti-bullying approach. Through the consultation process, all stakeholders have agreed to:

- Be supportive of each other.
- Provide positive role models.
- Convey a clear understanding that we disapprove of unacceptable behaviour.
- Be clear that we all follow the rules of Meadows First School.
- Be fully involved in the development of the anti-bullying policy and support anti-bullying practice.
- Support each other in the implementation of this policy.

All members of the school community are expected to report incidents of bullying.

**All staff** have a vital role to play as they are at the forefront of behaviour management and supporting children's sense of well being. They have the closest knowledge of the children in their care, and should build up a relationship involving mutual support, trust and respect. Staff agree to:

- Provide children with a framework of behaviour including rules which support the whole school policy.
- Emphasise and behave in a respectful and caring manner to children and colleagues, to set a good tone and help create a positive atmosphere.
- Raise awareness of bullying through activities, stories, role play, discussion, peer support, school council, PHSE, assemblies etc.
- Through the head teacher, keep the governing body well informed regarding issues concerning behaviour management.
- Provide a key staff member who is responsible for the monitoring of the policy. At Meadows, this is the head teacher.
- Abide by the Meadows IT Acceptable Use Policy.

Governors have a duty to:

- Support the head teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school.
- Not condone any bullying at all in our school,
- Take any incidents of bullying that do occur very seriously, and deal with them appropriately.

Through the development and implementation of this policy Meadows First School trusts that all children, parents/carers and staff will:

- Feel confident that everything is being done to make Meadows First School a safe and secure environment.
- Know who can be contacted if they have any concerns about bullying.
- Feel supported in reporting incidents of bullying.
- Be reassured that action regarding bullying will take place.

### **Reacting to a specific incident**

#### **Recording**

All incidents, (either in or out of class) will be recorded by the school on the electronic recording system; behaviour log on Sims. A senior member of staff (head teacher, deputy head or SENCo) will take responsibility for ensuring that the incident is properly recorded and that the record is updated as necessary throughout an investigation.

Parents of all children involved will be informed of what has happened, and how it has been dealt with. All discussions and actions relating to the incident will be documented and added to the incident log.

#### **Dealing with an incident**

Whenever a bullying incident is discovered, the school will go through a number of steps. The exact nature of each step will be adapted to suit the nature and severity of the incident, and the response of those involved.

1. The school community need to be made aware that when a bullying incident has come to the attention of adults in the school, it has been taken seriously and action has resulted. School expects to support all involved by:
  - Talking the incident through with all parties involved.
  - Supporting the person who has been bullied to express their feelings.
  - Supporting the person displaying the bullying behaviour to express their feelings.
  - Discussing which rule(s) have been broken.
  - Discussing strategies for making amends.
2. Measures will be in line with the school's behaviour policy, and may include:
  - Explanation why the appropriate behaviour is unacceptable.
  - Reparation of damaged relationships.
  - Time away from an activity.
  - Meeting with staff, parent and child.
  - Missing another activity.
  - Formal letter home from the head teacher expressing concerns.
  - Time out from the classroom.
  - Pastoral support plan.
  - Time in Hive
  - Fixed term exclusion.
  - Permanent exclusion.
3. Safeguarding procedures will be followed when child protection concerns arise.