

ASHCROFT INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Providing the best start in life for all children



Anti-Bullying Policy

Headteacher: _____

Person Responsible for Policy and Review: Headteacher

Policy Type: Non - Statutory

DOCUMENT AND VERSION CONTROL

Version	Author	Implementation Date	Revision Detail
1.0	Jayne Fellows	September 2026	Rewritten to include social and cyber bullying, recording incidents and children with SEND

Rationale

At Ashcroft Infant & Nursery School, we believe that every child has the right to feel safe, happy, valued and included. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.

We recognise that everyone within our school community has a responsibility to prevent bullying and to promote an environment in which children feel respected and supported.

We encourage all children to treat others with kindness and respect. Unkind behaviour will be challenged, even when there is no intention to cause hurt.

We recognise that young children are developing their understanding of friendships, relationships and the impact of their behaviour on others. We aim to support children in developing positive relationships and resolving disagreements appropriately.

What is bullying?

Bullying is behaviour that is intended to hurt another person, either physically or emotionally. It is usually repeated over a period of time and often involves an imbalance of power, making it difficult for the child experiencing the bullying to defend themselves.

Bullying can take many forms. The four main types are:

1. Physical: Hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, hurting others or taking or damaging others' belongings.
2. Verbal: Name calling, teasing, insults, threats or making unkind comments.
3. Social: Deliberately excluding others, spreading rumours, encouraging others not to be friends with someone or deliberately embarrassing or humiliating others.
4. Cyber: Using technology, including social media, messaging or online games, to send unkind or threatening messages, spread rumours, share hurtful images or deliberately exclude others online.

Bullying may also be linked to prejudice or discrimination, including behaviour relating to race, religion, disability, sex or other individual differences.

We recognise that not all incidents of unkind behaviour constitute bullying. Children may occasionally fall out, disagree or behave unkindly towards one another. However, all incidents will be taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

A single serious incident, including discriminatory behaviour or physical harm, will be addressed even if it does not meet the definition of bullying.

Aims

At Ashcroft Infant & Nursery School, we aim to:

1. Prevent bullying by promoting kindness, respect, tolerance and positive relationships throughout the school community.
2. Ensure that all children understand, at an age-appropriate level, what bullying is and know that it is unacceptable.

3. Create a safe and supportive environment in which children feel confident to report concerns to a trusted adult.
4. Encourage children to recognise and respect differences and to understand the feelings and needs of others.
5. Provide a stimulating and inclusive playground environment, with opportunities for both active and quiet play.
6. Ensure that all incidents of bullying are identified, investigated and addressed promptly and consistently.
7. Work in partnership with parents and carers to prevent bullying and resolve concerns effectively.

Prevention

We believe that prevention is essential in creating a safe, happy and inclusive school environment.

At Ashcroft Infant & Nursery School, we will:

1. Promote an ethos of kindness, respect and tolerance through our school values, curriculum and everyday interactions.
2. Teach children about positive relationships, friendships, feelings and respectful behaviour through PSHE, circle time, assemblies and other age-appropriate activities.
3. Encourage children to celebrate differences and develop empathy and understanding towards others.
4. Ensure that all staff are vigilant for signs of bullying, including changes in children's behaviour, friendships or emotional wellbeing.
5. Provide appropriate supervision and support during playtimes, lunchtimes and other less structured parts of the school day.
6. Encourage children to report incidents of bullying or unkind behaviour to a trusted adult and reassure them that their concerns will be listened to and taken seriously.
7. Work closely with parents and carers to reinforce positive relationships and respectful behaviour.

Responding to incidents of bullying

All reports of bullying will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately.

When an incident is reported or identified, staff will:

1. Listen carefully and sensitively to the child reporting the incident, reassuring them that they have done the right thing by speaking to an adult.
2. Establish the circumstances of the incident by speaking to the children involved and, where appropriate, any witnesses.

3. Inform the class teacher and ensure that the incident is reported to a senior member of staff where necessary.
4. Take appropriate action to ensure that the child experiencing the bullying feels safe and supported.
5. Address the behaviour of the child responsible, taking account of their age, understanding, individual needs and the circumstances of the incident.
6. Support all children involved in developing positive relationships, understanding the impact of their behaviour and making appropriate choices.
7. Record confirmed incidents of bullying and monitor the situation to ensure that the behaviour does not continue.
8. Inform parents and carers as appropriate and work together to resolve the concerns.

Where an incident raises a safeguarding concern, staff will follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Responsibilities of staff on duty

Staff supervising children during playtimes and lunchtimes should:

1. Ensure that pupils are appropriately supervised throughout playtimes and lunchtimes, including when accessing toilet facilities.
2. Observe pupils' play patterns, friendships and relationships, paying particular attention to children who appear isolated, distressed or unhappy.
3. Encourage children to play together and support those who may experience difficulties forming or maintaining friendships.
4. Listen sensitively to any concerns or allegations raised by children and take appropriate action.
5. Intervene promptly when unkind or inappropriate behaviour is observed.
6. Encourage positive play by organising or supporting playtime activities where appropriate.
7. Inform the class teacher of any concerns, recurring incidents or behaviour that may indicate bullying.

Informing parents and carers

At Ashcroft Infant & Nursery School, we recognise the importance of working closely with parents and carers to prevent and address bullying.

Where an incident of bullying is suspected or confirmed, the parents or carers of the children involved will be informed as appropriate, taking account of the circumstances and any safeguarding considerations.

We believe that early communication and positive relationships between home and school are essential in resolving concerns effectively.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to share any concerns about their child's wellbeing, friendships or experiences at school.

We will work collaboratively with families to address incidents of bullying, provide appropriate support and monitor the situation to ensure that all children feel safe and happy in school.

Recording and Monitoring Bullying Incidents

At Ashcroft Infant & Nursery School, we recognise the importance of recording and monitoring incidents of bullying to ensure that concerns are addressed effectively and that children feel safe and supported.

We will:

1. Record all confirmed incidents of bullying using the school's established recording procedures.
2. Ensure that records include the nature of the incident, the children involved, the action taken and any communication with parents or carers.
3. Monitor incidents of unkind behaviour to identify any recurring patterns that may indicate bullying.
4. Ensure that senior leaders are informed of confirmed bullying incidents and review the action taken.
5. Monitor the wellbeing of children who have experienced bullying and ensure that appropriate support is provided.
6. Follow up incidents with the children involved to ensure that the behaviour has stopped and that positive relationships are being maintained.
7. Review bullying records regularly to identify patterns or trends and take appropriate action to prevent further incidents.

All records will be treated confidentially and shared only with those who need the information to support the children involved.

Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At Ashcroft Infant & Nursery School, we recognise that children with SEND may be more vulnerable to bullying and may experience additional difficulties in recognising, communicating or reporting incidents.

We are committed to ensuring that all children feel safe, included and supported.

We will:

1. Ensure that all children are supported to understand what bullying is, using age-appropriate language, visual resources and other communication methods where necessary.
2. Recognise that some children may find it difficult to communicate their feelings or explain what has happened to them.

3. Be vigilant for changes in behaviour, emotional wellbeing or social interactions that may indicate a child is experiencing bullying.
4. Provide children with appropriate opportunities and support to communicate concerns to a trusted adult.
5. Ensure that children with SEND are fully included in school activities and supported in developing positive friendships and relationships.
6. Take account of children's individual needs, understanding and communication difficulties when investigating incidents of bullying.
7. Work closely with parents and carers, the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and other relevant professionals to ensure that appropriate support is provided.
8. Challenge any bullying or discriminatory behaviour relating to a child's disability or additional needs.

We recognise that all children, regardless of their individual needs or abilities, have the right to feel safe, respected and valued within our school community.