Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy

Anti-Bullying Policy

VISION
Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy are excited to thrive as a caring, interdependent community that is proud to be Welsh.

MISSION
Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy provides a holistic Welsh-medium education that is child-centred.

VALUES
Belong - We belong to the community here in Monmouth and to the wider cultural community of Wales.
Care - We care about ourselves, each other, and our environment.
Thrive - We thrive because we are ready to succeed and are responsible for our own choices.

Anti-Bullying Policy

At Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying behaviours of any kind is unacceptable at Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that the incident will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a 'Telling' school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is taking place is expected to tell a member of staff.

Objectives of this policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying behaviour is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow this policy when bulling behaviour is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying behaviour and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying behaviour seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying behaviour is reported.
- Bullying behaviour will not be accepted.

What is bullying behaviour?

Bullying behaviour is when a person or a group repeatedly and intentionally uses or abuse their power to intimidate, hurt, oppress or damage someone else. It can be covert or cyber-based (happening online through social networks or even through mobile phones).

Bullying behaviour can be:

- *Physical bullying:* When physical actions such as hitting, kicking, poking, tripping, pushing or unwanted sexual contact, are used to hurt and intimidate. Repeatedly and intentionally damaging someone's belongings is also physical bullying.
- *Verbal bullying:* Involves the use of negative words, like name calling, insults, sexually abusive comments, homophobic or racist slurs, swearing, gestures or words used to intentionally upset someone.
- *Social bullying:* When lies, the spreading of rumours or nasty pranks are used. This includes repeated mimicking and deliberate exclusion, or ignoring.
- *Psychological bullying:* Involves the repeated and intentional use of words or actions which can cause psychological harm. Examples include intimidation, manipulation and stalking.
- *Cyber bullying:* When technology is used to verbally, socially or psychologically bully. It can occur in chat rooms, on social networking sites, online gaming, through emails or on mobile phones.

Bullying behaviour isn't

- mutual arguments and disagreements

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single-episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation.

Where and When Bullying behaviours can Happen

Bullying behaviour can occur during or after school hours. While some reported bullying behaviour happens in the school building, a significant percentage also happens in places like on the playground or the bus. It can also happen travelling to or from school, in the community, or on the internet.

Why is it important to respond to bullying behaviour?

Bullying behaviour hurts and can have long term effects. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are displaying bullying behaviour need to learn different ways of behaving. This is why we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying behaviour.

Signs and Symptoms a Child is the victim of bullying behaviour

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that they are the victim of bullying behaviour. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a child:-

- Is frightened of walking to or from school.
- Doesn't want to go on the school bus.
- Begs to be driven to school.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to school (School Phobic).
- Begins truanting.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence.
- Start stammering.
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away.
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares.
- Frequently feels ill in the morning.
- Begins to do poorly in schoolwork.
- Comes home with clothes torn or belongings damaged.
- Has possessions go 'missing'.
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully).
- Continually loses monies.
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises.
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive, or unreasonable.
- Is bullying other children or siblings.
- Stops eating.
- Is frightened to say what is wrong.
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying behaviour should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Signs a Child is displaying bullying behaviour towards others

A child may be displaying bullying behaviour towards others if they:

- Get into physical or verbal fights
- Have friends who displaying bullying behaviour towards others others
- Are increasingly aggressive
- Have unexplained extra money or new belongings
- Blame others for their problems
- Don't accept responsibility for their actions
- Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity

Procedures

1. Report bullying behaviour to a member of staff – class teacher in the first instance if possible.
2. Serious incidents will be recorded in the class logbook and monitored regularly by senior leaders.
3. In confirmed cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem where appropriate.
4. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be informed.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. Every effort will be made to help the bully/bullies to change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully/bullies will be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may also be considered.
2. Wherever possible, the pupils will be reconciled with support and mediation strategies.
3. After the incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying behaviour does not take place.
4. Support strategies such as ELSA may be offered to the victim of bullying behaviours and/ or the perpetrator/s.
5. In serious cases, fixed or permanent exclusion will be considered.

Prevention

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help children prevent bullying behaviour by talking about it, building a safe school and home environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy. As and when appropriate this may include:

- Explicitly learn about, and follow our school values
- Whole school use of PHSE programme to develop understanding of social, emotional skills.

- Annual 'Friendship' project at the beginning of each year, reinforcing and developing anti-bullying knowledge and understanding, and re-developing friendships and relationships following the summer break.
- Ensure appropriate levels of staffing during unstructured play times
- Writing a set of class responsibilities and entitlements.
- Signing a behaviour contract.
- Explicit and incidental learning opportunities to prevent bullying behaviour, develop understanding of positive friendships and our school values.
- Explicit assemblies to highlight the impact of bullying behaviour.
- Drama/role play activities.
- Circle Time activities focussing on aspects of bullying behaviour.
- Having discussions about bullying behaviour and why we need to tell.
- Police Liaison officer lessons and support.

Policy written March 2025

Signed

_____ Headteacher

_____ Chair of Governors

_____ Date