



Anti-Bullying Policy 2025-2026

Approved by:	<i>Pastoral Committee</i>
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Review by:	Jo Davey

Introduction

All children have the right to be safe from bullying, harm and abuse. At Canonbury we will ensure that those vulnerable to bullying are supported and looked after. Our school aims to offer a positive, supportive and safe learning environment for our community, in which everyone has an equal right to be treated with dignity and respect. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all pupils and adults should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils, volunteers and parents:

- have an understanding of what bullying is
- know what the school policy is on bullying and what they should do
- know that as a school we take bullying seriously.
- know that bullying will not be tolerated

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is defined by the Anti-Bullying Alliance as:

'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online'

Bullying behaviour can be:

Physical - pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.

Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.

Emotional - isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule,

Sexual – inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse,

Online /cyber – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending hurtful messages

Indirect - Can include the exploitation of individuals.

Children and young people may be bullied for any reason; because of the way they look, because of their religion, their age, because of learning or physical disability, where they live, their family, their social class or their achievement.

Canonbury challenges all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in the way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality - including racism, identity based bullying, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic prejudices.

Online bullying

Online bullying is treated like any other form of bullying. Canonbury is aware of the dangers the internet can pose and the significant component technology can have in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

Where appropriate, the Child Protection, Behaviour and Online Safety policies will be used alongside the Anti Bullying Policy to manage incidents of online bullying.

Bullying is not

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when a one-off trick or joke is played on someone.

It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose.

Children sometimes fall out and say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise, although unkind, it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to manage friendship breakdowns or unkind incidents. Learning how to manage these situations and how to develop skills to repair relationships are key to children development and skills for further life and repairing relationships. Therefore, although we ensure that all children are supported through this process it is not classified as bullying.

Anti-Bullying

At Canonbury we aim to prevent bullying behaviour from happening including via online sources, by teaching children to recognise different forms of bullying and the effects these have; teaching strategies for prevention; and by identifying effective procedures for dealing with incidents, and making these clear to children, parents and staff.

The school's anti-bullying procedures are monitored and reviewed regularly, as are the number and nature of any incidents. In the case of online bullying, disciplinary sanctions may be imposed even in relation to conduct which takes place outside school premises.

We will:

- Ensure that the whole school understands what bullying means, what Bullying behaviour is
- Make clear that a zero tolerance approach to bullying is in place in school
- Encourage children to report incidents without feeling they are telling tales
- Stress the role of the bystander
- Take incidents seriously, listen to gain clarity and act promptly and fairly
- Have a behaviour policy for pupils and staff setting out clear guidelines for managing pupil behaviour both in the playground and in the classroom
- Reward positive behaviour and relationships as outlined in our behaviour policy and through the classroom behaviour system, achievement assemblies
- Raise awareness of bullying issues. This will be through whole school events such as Anti-bullying week and through key stage assemblies and PSHE/ teaching
- Develop children's own resilience through a PSHE and The Canonbury Curriculum. This may involve exploring feelings through role play and viewing bullying situations from differing points of view.

Children's views

We consult with our pupils to find out how they feel and what issues are worrying them. Here are some of their comments about bullying and safety:

I feel safe talking to an adult about bullying. Adults notice if something is wrong - Ruby

When you bully someone, you can destroy their confidence - Joel

When I was bullied, an adult helped me sort the drama out - Sophie

We feel safe and comfortable - you have teachers, friends and adults to support you and make you feel joy again - Poppy

Reporting bullying

All members of the Canonbury community have a duty and responsibility to report bullying, whether they witness it, know of it or suffer from it. Bullying concerns should be reported to school in the first instance.

There are a number of ways bullying can be reported:

- Worry Boxes in every classroom, which can be used to report concerns anonymously to a teacher
- Concerns can be passed onto any member of staff. All members of staff have a duty of care to ensure the anti-bullying policy is adhered to when a report is made
- Circle times for each class can be used as a forum for raising concerns

Procedures

Stage 1 actions:

- Respond sensitively to the parent or child reporting
- Listen to the concern and clarify any information shared
- Gather information with a complete record reported on the Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS), as soon as possible
- Refer to and respond to the behaviour using related school policies where appropriate, for example Behaviour, Online Safety and Safeguarding policies
- Intervention and support is supported by the class teacher. If the allegation is of a serious nature, then the teacher will consult with the Deputy Head, Inclusion, who may deem it necessary to move to stage 2 immediately.
- Children may be brought together if necessary and appropriate to discuss the concern and the solution strategy
- Share information and action required with key school staff for all of the children involved – class teachers, key stage coordinators, SLT and playground staff
- Inform parents of incidents and actions where allegations are substantiated
- Enter a complete record of conversations and actions on CPOMS

Stage 2 actions include:

- Report the incident to the Deputy Headteachers
- The Deputy Headteacher, Inclusion, will ensure that
 - an appropriate response is made to the report, including speaking to all involved, carrying out further fact-finding where required, and contacting relevant parents
 - action is taken and shared with parents
 - all conversations and actions are recorded on CPOMS
- Restorative approaches are used where and when appropriate to achieve resolutions and achieve acceptable outcomes for all
- An intervention programme may be set up for individuals, with key monitoring targets
- Development of self-esteem or social intervention work may be introduced where necessary
- Continued check ins and support from a key adult will take place when needed
- The Deputy Head will follow up incidents to ensure that bullying has not started again and progress is being made: two weeks after the report and the following half term.

The school takes the needs of those vulnerable to bullying seriously and support is offered for as long as the child feels the need.

Stage 3 actions include:

- meeting for children and parents with the Headteacher to discuss resolution, targets, next steps and sanctions.
- referrals to outreach services or other agencies.

Consequences of Bullying

- Canonbury's staff are available to ensure those vulnerable to bullying are supported in rebuilding their confidence.
- Support for the perpetrator may include emotional regulation, circle of friends, liaising with parents or referrals to outside agencies (Wellbeing service, Bright Start, CAMHS).
- Punishing the perpetrator does not end bullying. At Canonbury Primary School we emphasise that it is the bullying behaviour, rather than the person doing the bullying, that is not acceptable
- The perpetrator will be encouraged to understand how their actions have caused distress and anxiety
- Actions, consequences or sanctions, where appropriate, will be in line with the school's behaviour policy; this may involve: verbal rule reminder, removal of privileges, senior teacher involvement, internal/external exclusion/suspension (at the discretion of the Headteacher), in some cases reporting to the police or social services
- We will ensure all actions are fully communicated to the relevant parties and recorded using school record-keeping procedures

Monitoring

Canonbury's Anti-Bullying Policy is in-line with Local Authority and DfE Guidelines. The number of bullying incidents are monitored each term by the Deputy Headteacher, Inclusion and reported to the Headteacher and governors. Canonbury's Anti Bullying policy supports other policies such as our Behaviour Policy, Online safety and Child Protection Policy.

Further Guidance for Children

- Be kind
- If you see someone being bullied- help them or tell an adult
- If you are being bullied TELL SOMEONE! Talk to a trusted adult
- Use the class Worry Box
- Speak to your teacher
- Write it down or draw a picture if it helps you explain
- If it does not stop – tell the teacher again

Further Guidance for Parents

If your child tells you they are being bullied:

- Listen to your child
- Tell your child that bullying exists and it's not their fault
- Check all the facts
 - is it bullying or friendship problems, which may resolve naturally?
- Talk about possible strategies for your child to use
 - try the websites listed at the end of the policy
- Encourage your child to tell a teacher, or a key member of staff
- If the situation is serious, contact the class teacher yourself

Help from Outside Agencies

Parents and carers can access independent advice, guidance, and support regarding bullying and educational rights from the following external organisations.

Useful Websites

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk – Information, expert toolkits, and interactive resources specifically written for parents and carers.
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk – Practical advice, anti-bullying workshops, and online safety guidance.
- Family Lives (formerly Bullying UK): www.familylives.org.uk – Comprehensive guides covering all aspects of school bullying, cyberbullying
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk – Dedicated safety hubs with specialised tools to help adults recognize and prevent bullying.
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk – A confidential, safe online space tailored directly for children and young people.

Useful Telephone Numbers & Direct Lines

- Family Lives Parents Helpline: 0808 800 2222
 - *Availability:* Monday to Friday 9am – 9pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am – 3pm.
 - *Service:* Free, confidential emotional support and practical advice on all aspects of parenting and bullying.
- Kidscape Parent Advice Line: 0300 102 4481
 - *Availability:* Monday and Tuesday, 9:30am – 2:30pm.
 - *Service:* Specialist support for parents of children currently undergoing a bullying crisis.
- NSPCC Helpline (For Adults): 0808 800 5000
 - *Availability:* Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm (Email help is monitored 24/7 at help@nspcc.org.uk).
 - *Service:* For parents or members of the public concerned about a child's safety or severe online bullying.
- Childline (For Children): 0800 1111
 - *Availability:* 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - *Service:* Free, completely confidential phone line for kids and teenagers to speak with a counsellor.