

Anti-Bullying Policy

We have a very concise and approved anti-bullying policy which clearly states the school rationale with regard to bullying and also the sanctions for anyone found to be in contravention of the policy.

In short:

Rationale

We are aware that throughout their school life, many children may encounter bullying either as the perpetrator or as a victim whether it be in a physical, indirect, verbal or electronic form. No child or adult should feel threatened by the words or actions of others. As stated in the Equality Act 2012 and the Education Act 2011, we shall ensure that our school is a place where our children are equally valued listened to and can expect their problem to be dealt with in a fair way. All incidents will be treated with sensitivity, taking account of the personal circumstances of the children involved.

Holywell Village First School defines bullying as 'Nasty behaviour, lots of times on purpose'. For example any physical, indirect, verbal or electronic form including name calling, indirect insults, calling behind one's back, exclusion from games or taking belongings. This shall be the definition used throughout school for children, parents/carers and used by staff and Governors.

Purposes

- To create a supportive, listening environment where action is taken and followed through.
- To have a set procedure and process for both the victim and the perpetrator.
- To communicate our policy and practice to children, staff, parents and governors.
- To provide training and support for staff and children.
- To project a positive image of our approach.
- To constantly work towards improving the general behaviour of the school.

- To increase awareness of the range of behaviour which constitutes bullying and possible symptoms of it occurring.
- To use the 'Bully Busters' and dedicated anti-bullying staff to provide a constant message to children and support network through both peer and adult staff support.
- To ensure that staff are aware that the anti-bullying support extends to everyone in school, not just the children.

Ways in which the children can report issues/concerns:

- Speak to a Bully-Buster or member of the anti-bullying team in school, Mrs. Brett, Mrs Reed or Mrs. Hogarth are always happy to listen and help children with concerns.
- Use the worry box located outside of the school office to post your worry /concern and one of the team will speak to you
 - privately.
- Speak to any staff member who will pass on your worries/concerns to the team.

Our full Anti-Bullying policy is available to view on our school website at:

www.holywell.northumberland.gov.uk

Along with further information on events and activities surrounding bullying and Anti-bullying week.

Should you wish to visit the BIG website—you will see our school listed as one of the few accredited schools throughout the country to have gained the BIG award more than twice;

www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk



Anti-bullying Information for Parents/Carers

2025-2026

Key Anti-bullying Staff:

Mrs. S Brett
Mrs. E Reed
Mrs. S Hogarth

If you have any concerns regarding bullying or wish to speak to school for more information, please contact us via:
Telephone—0191 2370384

Email—
admin@hollywell.northumberland.sch.uk

Anti-bullying information for Parents and Carers of Holywell Village First School Children



WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is the persistent intentional harming of another person within an equal power relationship. For a more child-friendly definition we can explain it as “lots of times on purpose when someone can't defend themselves.”

Bullying can be:

* Verbal

Insults, name calling, racism, homophobia, sexism or other victimisation.

* Physical

Kicking, punching, fighting, hitting, damaging clothing.

* Indirect or emotional

Rumour spreading, leaving someone out, jeering, laughing.

* Cyberbullying

Using mobile phone or Internet to send abusive messages, rumours or photos.

Be a friend so bullying could end



HOW DOES BULLYING DIFFER FROM BANTER?

- There is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate.
- There is an unequal power balance that makes it hard for the victim to defend themselves.
- It is usually persistent or systematic.

It helps to consider one fight or argument between two people of equal power—this is NOT seen as bullying. We usually judge bullying to be when one person or a group deliberately singles out others as a target and sets out to repeatedly humiliate or threaten them: a systematic abuse of power.

REPETITION

There are a few situations where it is not helpful to be too rigid about the concept of repetition.

- When bullying happens to a child with special needs
- Racial and sexual bullying
- Physical injury requires swift intervention.

Generally however we think of bullying as a deliberate 'campaign' to hurt someone.

INTENTION

What if the bullying child did not mean it?

There can be instances when a victim clearly feels they have been bullied but the bullying child does not understand the harm they have intentionally caused. These cases can be classed as non-malign bullying. Work would be carried out with the child to help them understand the impact of their behaviour. The victim would also be supported to help become more resilient.



We have been accredited both National and Regional Anti-bullying accreditations.

This has been achieved through dedication and commitment to making our school a 'bully-free' zone. The aim of the award is to demonstrate that schools who are accredited it, take bullying seriously and only accept good practice.

The award accreditations gives Parents/Carers and children confidence in our school's approach to bullying.

The Northumberland County Council regional Anti-bullying

Accreditation is awarded in recognition of the work undertaken throughout school on bullying and the steps taken to ensure we are an anti-bullying school.

We couldn't be more proud of these achievements—they certainly show the commitment of the staff throughout school to make Holywell Village First School a safe and happy place to learn.