Dallas Road Community Primary School
Anti - Bullying Policy

September 2026

Statement of Intent

Dallas Road Community Primary School is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where every child can learn, thrive and enjoy school life free from the fear or experience of bullying.

Bullying in any form is unacceptable and will always be addressed promptly, consistently and sensitively. All members of our school community (staff, governors, pupils, parents and carers) share responsibility for promoting a culture where bullying is not tolerated.

Whenever bullying is suspected or reported, staff will take concerns seriously and act immediately. Incidents will be investigated, recorded, monitored and communicated appropriately, with the safety and wellbeing of the child at the centre of all actions.

What is bullying?

Bullying is a form of child-on-child abuse. It is defined at Dallas Road as:

"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. This can occur face-to-face or online."

Bullying may be:

- **Physical** – hitting, kicking, pushing, damaging property
- **Verbal** – name-calling, insults, threats, derogatory language
- **Emotional** – excluding, humiliating, intimidation
- **Online** – harmful messages, images or videos shared through social media, gaming, or messaging
- **Racist** – racially motivated comments or behaviours
- **Homophobic, biphobic or transphobic** – based on actual or perceived gender identity or sexuality
- **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact, sexualised comments, harassment
- **Prejudice-based or discriminatory** – targeting protected or vulnerable groups (SEND, race, faith, looked-after children, young carers, adopted children)

One-off serious incidents

While bullying typically involves repeated behaviour, a single incident can constitute bullying behaviour or child-on-child abuse if it causes significant harm.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying can have immediate and long-term negative effects on wellbeing, attendance, emotional health, and learning. It is associated with anxiety, depression, disengagement from school and reduced attainment.

Everyone in our school community has the right to:

- Feel safe
- Be treated with kindness and respect
- Learn free from fear
- Report concerns and be listened to
- Access support when needed

Children who bully others also require appropriate support, guidance, and boundaries to help them change their behaviour.

Preventing Bullying

We recognise that effective prevention requires a whole-school approach. At Dallas Road we:

Promote a positive culture

- Clear behaviour expectations based on respect, kindness and responsibility
- Celebrations of diversity throughout the curriculum and school life
- Consistent promotion of emotional wellbeing and healthy relationships

Teach pupils about bullying

- PSHE curriculum addressing relationships, conflict resolution and online safety
- Assemblies exploring respect, inclusion and the difference between conflict and bullying
- Guidance that encourages pupils to speak to a trusted adult

Create safe spaces and supportive systems

- Trained and vigilant staff across the school day, including lunchtimes
- A wide range of structured play opportunities
- Pastoral support and targeted interventions for individuals and groups

Provide staff training

- Regular training on identifying, preventing and responding to bullying
- Specific support on behaviours linked to protected characteristics and vulnerable groups

Engage the whole community

- Pupil involvement in reviewing and understanding our policy
- Opportunities for pupil voice through surveys and committees
- Partnership work with parents and carers

Reporting bullying

Pupils are encouraged to talk to staff whenever they feel unsafe or worried. They can report concerns to:

- Their class teacher
- Any trusted adult
- Teaching assistants
- Lunchtime staff
- The pastoral team or DSL

Parents and carers should report concerns to the class teacher or directly to the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher if preferred.
Children are also taught to report incidents that occur outside school, including online.

Responding to Bullying Incidents

All bullying concerns must be reported to a Designated Safeguarding Lead and recorded on CPOMS.

Our response will include:

- Listening carefully to the child
- Ensuring immediate safety and support
- Investigating the incident thoroughly
- Considering the roles of all children involved
- Recording all actions taken
- Informing parents of both parties
- Agreeing next steps and support strategies
- Monitoring the situation for a sustained period

What parents/carers should expect

- A clear explanation of actions taken
- Opportunities to discuss their child's needs
- Reassurance that school will manage communications between families

Parents should not approach other children or parents about the incident.

Safeguarding

We challenge all inappropriate behaviours between children. Dismissing actions as “banter”, “just a laugh”, or “part of growing up” is unacceptable and can create an unsafe culture where abuse is normalised.

Child-on-child abuse may include:

- **Physical harm** (hitting, kicking, biting, hair-pulling), including behaviour facilitated online
- **Bullying** (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based or discriminatory bullying)
- **Sexual harassment** (sexual comments, jokes, or online harassment)
- **Initiation/hazing behaviours**

Further forms of abuse are detailed in our Safeguarding Policy.

Where there is reasonable cause to suspect significant harm, the incident will be treated as a child protection concern under the Children Act 1989. The DSL will contact children’s social care and work with external agencies as appropriate.

Support will always be offered to all children involved, whether or not the situation meets safeguarding thresholds.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice

Bullying does not automatically mean a child requires SEND support, but we provide proportionate, tailored help where needed, following the SEND Code of Practice (0–25 years).

We recognise that children with SEND may face additional barriers, including:

- Misinterpretation of changes in behaviour or mood
- Greater vulnerability to isolation or prejudice-based bullying
- Difficulty communicating concerns

We ensure that pupils with SEND have appropriate pastoral support and safe opportunities to share worries, and we remain vigilant in identifying and responding to any concerns.

Staff Induction, Development and Support

All staff and volunteers are asked to read our Anti-Bullying Policy prior to starting at Dallas Road with key points discussed and highlighted.

Staff are provided with regular training and advice and are able to identify particular training needs through their appraisals and the school’s annual self-evaluation process.

Monitoring and Review

Senior leaders produce a termly Behaviour Report for governors analysing:

- Number of incidents
- Types of bullying
- Interventions used
- Emerging patterns
- Training needs

This policy is reviewed annually alongside:

- Behaviour Policy
- Single Equality Scheme
- Attendance Policy
- Online Safety Policy