

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY Updated November 2025

Aims and Expectations

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all incidents of bullying are dealt with effectively so that all children can play and learn together.

If children are encouraged to build up good relationships with other children and adults, they will find it easier to report incidents of bullying. All children are to be encouraged to report such incidents so that they can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

This policy forms part of the Behaviour Policy.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

The desire to deliberately and repeatedly hurt, threaten or frighten someone.

EXAMPLES OF BULLYING:

Hitting, kicking, punching, name calling, making hurtful remarks and isolating children. We do not consider the occasional quarrel or fight to be bullying. The use of messaging and social media to hurt others is also considered as bullying.

STAFF

An adult in school may notice that a child is unhappy by the type of behaviour he/she exhibits during the school day especially at playtimes and lunchtimes. Often, children who are being bullied may complain of being sick, may be “clingy” and may not want to go out at playtime. They may appear isolated and have no friends. The school will endeavour to encourage all children to be included and will strive to reduce isolation. Parents may notify the school that they are reluctant to come in etc. If a child has been crying, a teacher will endeavour to find out the reason. If a child is being bullied, we will investigate fully.

In general, it is essential that children who say they are being bullied are believed and that these incidents are investigated. As well as concerns expressed by parents, it is also important for class teachers to be vigilant in detecting bullying.

It is important that bullying is discussed from time to time through class work and whole school situations eg assembly. As a result bullying will be “recognised” by all and opportunities will be provided to remind children of what to do if they are being bullied.

PARENTS

Parents should look for signs of reluctance or refusal to come to school over a period of time and talk to their child about it. If bullying is suspected, parents should first of all talk to the child’s class teacher.

RAISING AWARENESS

It is very important to get the victims of bullying to:

- Tell his/her friends
- Tell the teacher
- Tell his/her parents
- Tell another adult in school

He/she must tell in order that the cycle is broken.

- The victim needs assurance that he/she will be “safe” if he/she tells.
- The victim needs help to regain self-confidence and to believe that he/she acted bravely in “telling”.
- The outcomes of investigations into bullying should always be clearly explained to the victim.

There are many levels and types of bullying. Each case and each child will be different and will need handling individually. It is important that the child who has been bullying is punished and understands why the actions are wrong. The child will need help and support to maintain good behaviour.

The bully and victim may need some counselling. They should talk through their experiences and feelings. Questions such as, “Why did you do that?” “How do you think he felt about that?” Children will need help in expressing their feelings and to see other points of view. Sometimes it may be appropriate to get the children to write down their feelings or experiences and then to discuss these afterwards. Class teachers, senior staff and the school’s learning mentor will play a key role in this.

WAYS OF PREVENTING BULLYING

At Our Lady’s we try to prevent bullying by:

- Using whole school assemblies, R.E. lessons and P.S.H.E lessons to encourage respect for each other and each other’s belongings.
- Encourage respect throughout the whole curriculum.
- Discussion with children when incidents of bullying occur.
- Buddy system to encourage inclusion.
- Ongoing safety messages.
- E safety lessons and messages.
- Celebrating difference.
- Post boxes in class and for Learning Mentor to report worries and concerns.

PROCEDURES

- In simple cases staff on duty at break or lunchtime, the class teacher or a senior teacher may be able to deal with the situation.
- A referral to the Learning Mentor may be considered appropriate.
- In more serious cases, the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher may need to be involved. Parents will be notified and the situation will be discussed. In serious incidents of bullying, parents should be involved at all stages.

- Racist and/or homophobic bullying may be reported to the Governing Body and/ or the LA.

SANCTIONS

The sanctions suggested in the Behaviour Policy may be used. A Behaviour Contract or Target sheet will refer specifically to bullying and how the bully may change his/her behaviour. Parents should be notified and all incidents recorded. (see Appendix 1: example of Bullying Incident Report sheet).

If bullying reoccurs after the initial procedures, the Headteacher would consider the involvement of support agencies, i.e. Educational Psychologist, CAMHs, Hope School, or SENISS. (see Appendix 2: example of Target Sheet).

Where all measures fail and if it is seen as appropriate, the bully may be excluded according to normal procedures as set out in the Behaviour Policy. In extreme cases the matter will be referred to the Governing Body and the LA. Procedures, according to LA guidelines would then be put into place, which may lead to exclusion.

A child friendly policy is to be developed by the school council and be included in Appendix 3.

Date of Policy: November 2025.

Review date: November 2026.

Approved by: Full Governors 18th November 2025.

Signed

Chair of Governors

Headteacher



APPENDIX 1

BULLYING INCIDENT REPORT SHEET

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupil’s Name:

Date:..... Time:

Teacher/Member of staff who reported incident:
.....

Report of incident:

APPENDIX 2

Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School

TARGET SHEET

NAME			CLASS	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Child's signature

Parent/Carer Signature

Date:

Examples:

I will not hurt another child.

I will always tell the teacher and dinner lady if another child has hurt me.

I will always try to be friendly in school.

Sanctions:

Warning

Parent/carer informed as above

Target sheet