

# Anti-Bullying Policy – Lanner School



Date Approved	Sept 2025
Review Date	Sept 2026
Headteacher	K Walsh

This policy will be reviewed annually or before if necessary.

## Overview

Lanner Primary School aims to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which all children feel safe and able to voice any concerns they have. Part of this safe and nurturing environment is tackling any form of bullying swiftly and effectively when or if it occurs. We promote the needs of all pupil's irrespective of gender, religion or age. By knowing and talking about this we will reduce the number of bullying incidents that happen.

Lanner School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

**Definition of bullying is** "behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally" (DfE "Preventing and Tackling Bullying", July 2017). Bullying can include the following: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. It can also include the above being aimed at people for homophobic or racial reasons. This also includes the same unacceptable behaviours expressed online, sometimes called online or cyberbullying. This can include: sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos. Bullying can be a form of peer on peer abuse and can be emotionally abusive; it can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.

**The effects of bullying:** When bullying happens it affects everyone in our school. It can make the victim feel hurt and destroy self-esteem. Children who use bullying behaviour themselves can also be hurting, and need our help and support to behave differently. We know that it is really important for bullying to be dealt with quickly. As a school, we recognise the effect bullying can have and the impact of it on the children's mental health. There are several members of staff who are trained in the most recent developments and practises in mental health and emotional support. These members of staff will be deployed effectively to support children.

How we will reduce bullying:

- We will make lots of opportunities for children to think about how people are different and how this is a positive thing, not something to be afraid of.
- We will help children to build self-esteem and feel happy about being themselves.
- We will try to make sure that the adults in the school set a good example by behaving in a caring and considerate way.
- We will make sure all children know what bullying is and what it looks like. We will tell all children that prejudice related bullying is wrong. We will always challenge children who use homophobic language.
- We will encourage all the children to tell an adult if they are worried about bullying.

**Reporting and Responding to Bullying:** When a parent, carer or child tells us about bullying we will always take it seriously. All reports of bullying should be passed to the class teacher in the first instance, who will bring it to the attention of the Pastoral and Wellbeing team and/or the Senior Leadership team. The school will keep a record of what happened, who was involved and what was done to try and sort the situation out. Any sanctions (as identified within the school behaviour policy) and support for individuals will be implemented, in consultation with all parties concerned.. In addition to this, there may be follow up meetings to ensure it has not happened again. **Roles and Responsibilities:** Everyone at the school has a responsibility for preventing bullying. If adults think that bullying might be happening, they must tell the class teacher, Pastoral and wellbeing team or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Children also have a responsibility for preventing bullying. They must tell an adult if they are worried about themselves, or anyone else. Adults at school should also look for signs of bullying, because not all children who are being bullied will tell someone about it. A child who is being bullied might seem sad or withdrawn, anxious or nervous about getting things wrong. They might not want to come to school. In the event of an incident/complaint of bullying there will be a single point of contact who will be the liaison with the child/family and carry out the recordings of the investigations.

**Bullying Outside of School:** We know that if children are having difficulties at home it is impossible for them to do their best at school. The school has a responsibility to challenge all bullying which happens at school or on the journey and to help stop cyber-bullying. Although the school is not directly responsible for other bullying in the local neighbourhood, we do have the powers to apply sanctions in line with our behaviour policy. We will try and help parents to challenge bullying outside of school when we can.

This might include:

- talking with the children/ families involved
  - talking to the local police
  - talking to pupils about how to handle bullying outside of the school
- Supporting adults** Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable. Adults (staff and parents) who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher.

- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools behaviour and discipline policy.
- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance. Adults (staff and parents) who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:
  - Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the Headteacher to establish the concern.
  - Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

**Hate Crimes:** Hate crimes are any incidents, whether a crime or not, motivated by hostility or prejudice towards an individual due to their:

race;  
 religion;  
 sexual orientation;  
 gender identity;  
 or disability.

### **Protected characteristics**

race – a person's ethnicity, nationality, country of origin, skin colour, etc.  
 religion – a person's religion or faith, even if they have no religion.  
 sexual orientation – a person's sexuality, whether they are heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, asexual, etc.  
 gender identity – an individual who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.  
 gender - a person's sex  
 disability – any person with: physical impairment;  
 life-limiting illness;  
 sensory disability;  
 mental ill-health;  
 learning disability;  
 visual difference;  
 or diagnosis on the autistic spectrum

It does not matter if the person targeted has the characteristic that the prejudice is directed toward. Only that they are perceived to have that characteristic or belong to that community.

The definition covers criminal and non-criminal incidents. It is irrelevant whether the behaviour is a criminal offence. Hate Crime covers a range of behaviours, including:

discrimination;  
exclusion;  
verbal abuse;  
physical assault;  
bullying including cyber-bullying; and  
inciting hatred

Hate Crime can manifest in the school environment. Educating the perpetrator about their language and impact may be preferable. All incidents are recorded and reported to the local authority. If it is believed a crime has been committed any such incident will also be reported to the police.

Responses may involve action and support from various agencies for both the victim and the perpetrator, for example, support from statutory services and voluntary groups relating to the five protected characteristics.

This policy must be monitored to make sure it is working. The Headteacher has the overall responsibility for this, but parents and children will be able to comment in the annual questionnaire. Please call into school, telephone or email if you are at all concerned.

Links to other policies: Safeguarding PSHE Behaviour