



# Courthill Infant School

## Anti-Bullying Policy

Committee:	Local Governors
Policy Ratified:	October 2024
Review Date:	September 2025

At Courthill Infant School, children are encouraged to build positive relationships with each other and to maintain these at all times. This philosophy is enshrined in our school vision, values, rules and our 'Positive Behaviour & Relationships Policy'.

Staff encourage children to treat each other with kindness and respect; they model this behaviour towards one another and with children. Whilst we pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming school where relationships are outstanding, there are times when children may be unkind towards one another. At these points they are reminded of the school's expectations and asked to reflect on how they made the other person feel.

As with all schools, bullying incidents can take place at times, where children are deliberately and repetitively hurtful towards others. We are committed to creating an anti-bullying culture where no bullying behaviours are accepted, and it is seen as the responsibility of all members of the school community to report any instances of bullying.

**Courthill Infant School does not tolerate bullying of any kind.** If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, the incident is recorded and we act immediately to stop any further occurrences of such behaviour. We do everything in our power to ensure that all children attend school feeling safe.

Our **Anti-Bullying policy** outlines what bullying is and our strategy for preventing and tackling bullying.

Incidents/ reports are taken seriously, investigated and if necessary, acted upon, with clearly defined procedures.

In this policy, we will define what bullying is and set out how the school deals with it.

## Definition of Bullying

Bullying is a wilful, conscious desire to hurt or intimidate another person. **Bullying is a deliberate action taken by one or more children and is repeated over a period of time.** The victims of bullying find it difficult to defend themselves, they feel powerless.

Bullying may come under the label of 'child-on-child abuse' as defined in the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 guidance.

## Bullying behaviour can be:

- **Physical:** Hurting others by any form of physical contact e.g. hitting, kicking, pushing.
- **Verbal :** Name calling, teasing and insulting another.
- **Indirect:** Spreading rumours.
- **Emotional Threats and extortion:** Being unfriendly and excluding others from social activities. Humiliating others.
- **Interference with personal property:** Hiding, damaging and taking belongings without permission.
- **Harassment and discrimination:** Verbal abuse by name calling, racist jokes, sexist or homophobic comments, prejudice or being unkind to someone with a disability.
- **Cyber bullying:** Malicious use of social websites, mobile phone use and text messaging, photographs and e-mail.

## Signs of Bullying

Families are often the first to detect signs that their child may be being bullied or is bullying others. Common symptoms of being bullied include headaches, stomach aches, anxiety, irritability, lack of concentration, low self-esteem, depression, wetting, reluctance to go out to play, reluctance to participate in activities. Victims of bullying may be reluctant to come to school.

## School Strategies to prevent and address bullying:

- Pupils are given information about bullying through the PSHE programme.
- Exploration of what is bullying and how to deal with bullying through circle time.
- Whole school assemblies to raise awareness of bullying issues and providing a whole school focus for anti-bullying activities to raise awareness.
- Making sure the term bullying is not misused.
- Some activities within the PSHE programme are specifically aimed at developing children's own strategies to deal with bullying type behaviours.
- Pupils are encouraged to confide in someone they trust.

- Designated teachers are trained to help pupils who are being bullied.
- Pupils are listened to by encouraging children to report incidents without feeling they are 'telling tales'.
- Outdoor play areas provide opportunities for small group play and quieter activities.
- Poor behaviour is recorded using our recording systems - My Concern and Arbor.
- Serious incidents are dealt with directly by a member of the senior leadership team (SLT).
- Advice may be sought from outside agencies such as the Antibullying Alliance, community police.
- Raising staff awareness through training.

**Our 'Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy' sets out clear guidelines for managing pupil behaviour both in the playground and in the classroom. It should be read in conjunction with this policy.**

### **Responding to bullying**

We will make sure our response to incidents of bullying takes into account:

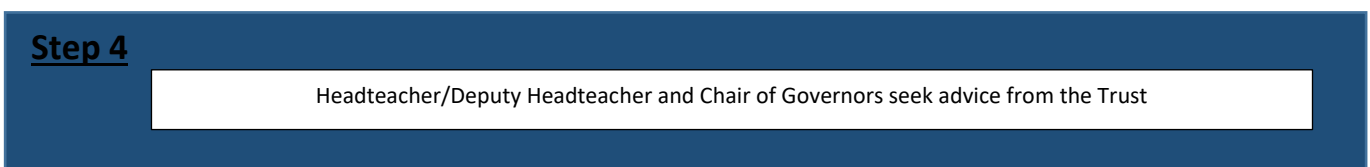
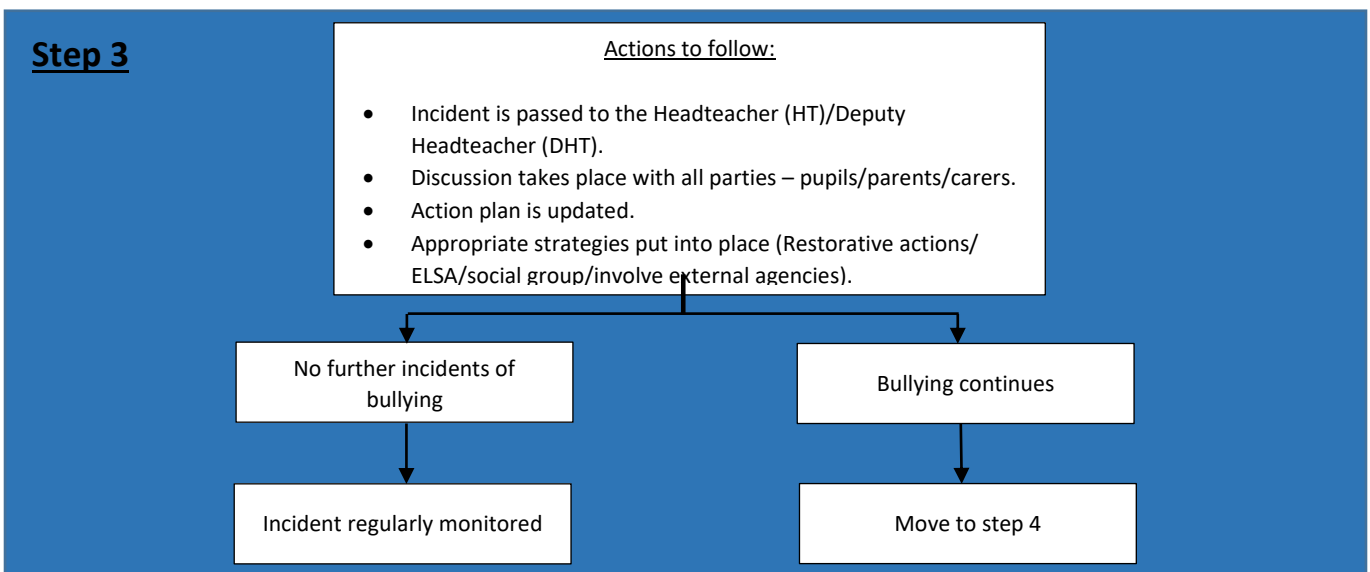
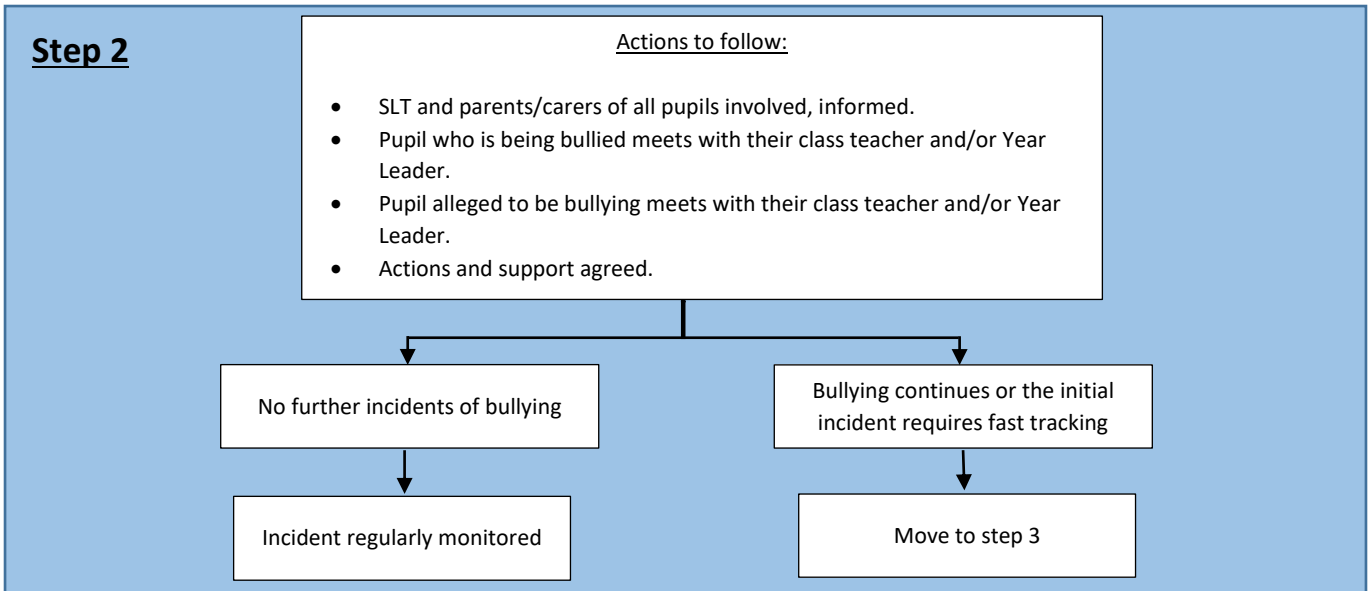
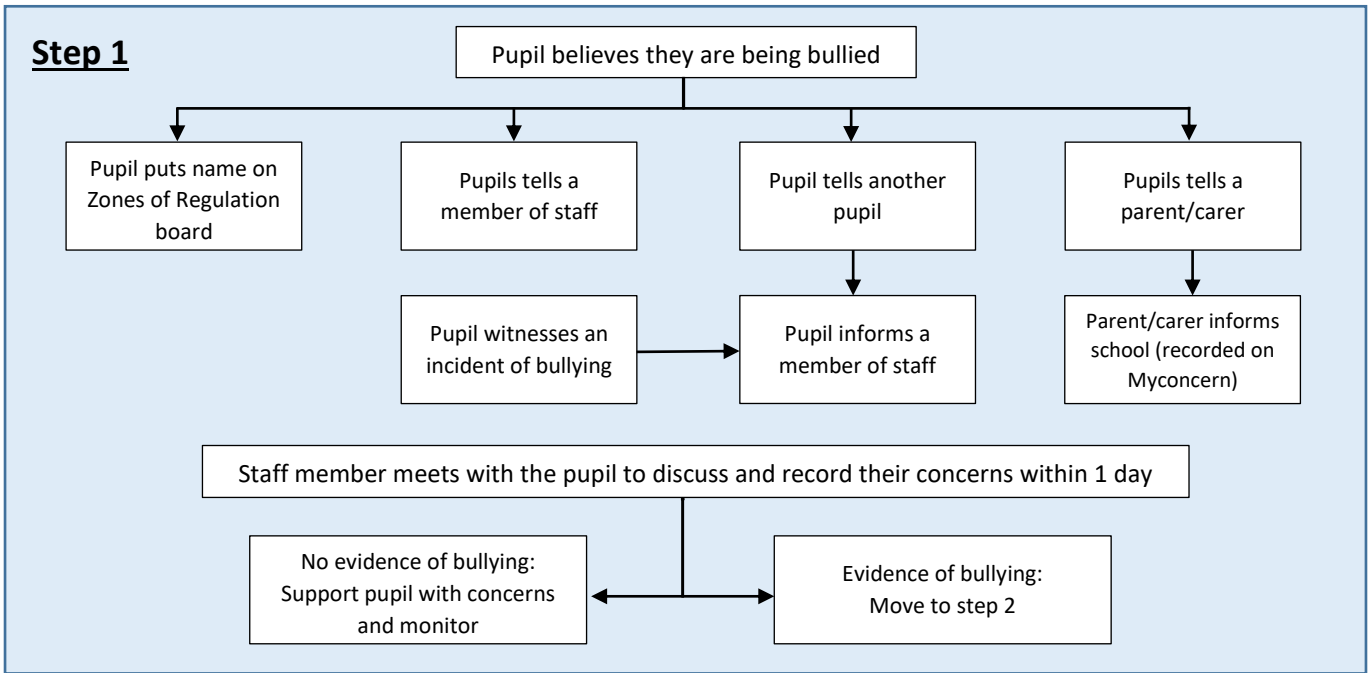
- Needs of the person being bullied.
- Needs of the person displaying bullying behaviour.
- Needs of any bystanders.
- Our school as a whole.

### **Procedures For Staff**

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents of bullying:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the member of staff that has been approached will deal with the incident immediately.
- Staff will make sure the victim(s) is reassured and feels safe.
- Staff will listen and speak to all children involved about the incident separately. This will enable staff to identify the issue and possible solutions.
- Staff will encourage a restorative approach which will move children on from having to justify their behaviour – this may take the form of a group meeting to reconcile pupils.
- Staff will reinforce the message that bullying is not tolerated.

## Pathways of Help



## Child Friendly Pathway for Help



I think I might be being bullied

What does it look like?

- It happens more than once
- It's deliberate
- Its only aimed at me or my group of friends
- It's unfair
- It's the same person or people doing it

Yes – this might be bullying

Tell a trusted adult

The adult will:

- Write down what you said.
- Talk to another teacher to decide how best to help.
- Speak to the other children/child and possibly their parents.
- Work out how this can be stopped.

- My friend is sometimes unkind to me
- I had an argument with my best friend
- I was pushed in the corridor/playground
- I had a one off fight with my friend
- I was called a name
- I didn't want to play with X

No – this is not bullying. Actions are unkind things but are not bullying

Tell a trusted adult

The adult will follow the behaviour policy