



Anti-Bullying Policy

Status	Updated Anti-Bullying Model Policy TEP
Agreed by the Governing Board	October 2024
Review Cycle	Annual
Next Review	October 2025

Lead Staff	Headteacher
Chair of Governing Body	Alex Krutnik
Headteacher	Jane Hatwell

Vision and Values

Our school vision is to provide an *outstanding, nurturing, learning environment*, where all our pupils can achieve their full potential and progress to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

Our mission is to provide each and every pupil with the best possible education, delivered in an environment that is supportive, caring and safe.

“Getting it right for every pupil”

At Stone Bay we focus on *Evolving Excellence* in all that we do, working towards making our school the best it can be for pupils, staff and families. We are creating lasting *Trust* with all our stakeholders, *Empowering* each other to learn and grow. By adhering to policies and clear processes we ensure *Fairness* and transparency in our decision making and actions, whilst ensuring we are *Collaborating* with others and always looking for ways to help each other to deliver excellence for our pupils.

Rights Respecting Schools

The Unicef UK Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school’s ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child’s talents and abilities to their full potential. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children’s rights are learned, taught, practiced, respected, protected and promoted.

Stone Bay has been awarded the Silver Award by UNICEF. This is awarded to UK schools that show good progress towards embedding children’s rights in the school’s policy, practice and ethos, as outlined in the RRSA Strands and Outcomes

Staff wellbeing

The Leadership Team and the Governing Board of Stone Bay School are committed to promoting positive mental, physical and emotional wellbeing and to providing suitable support for all staff. Taking action to prevent ill health and promote good health makes good educational and business sense, as sickness absence carries high costs both in monetary terms and in terms of the impact upon performance, teaching and learning, morale and productivity, which may disrupt or compromise pupil progress.

All members of staff are entitled to be treated fairly and professionally at all times. The Governing Board of Stone Bay School takes very seriously its duty of care as an employer to all members of staff and a number of policies and procedures have been made in relation to this duty.

Stone Bay School Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy is based on DfE guidance “[Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#)” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance “[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)” 2023 and ‘[Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)’ guidance. The setting has also read Children’s “[Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools](#)”.

1) Policy objectives:

- This policy outlines what Stone Bay School will do to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.
- The policy has been adopted with the involvement of the whole school community.
- Stone Bay School is committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

2) Links with other school policies and practices

This policy links with several school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour and Wellbeing policy
- Complaints policy
- Child protection policy
- Confidentiality policy
- Online safety and Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)
- Mobile phone and social media policies
- Searching, screening and confiscation policy

3) Links to legislation

- There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):
 - The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
 - The Equality Act 2010
 - The Children Act 1989
 - Protection from Harassment Act 1997
 - The Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - Public Order Act 1986

4) Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of:
 - The headteacher communicates this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.
 - Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
 - All staff, including: governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.
 - Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.
 - Pupils abide by the policy.

5) Definition of bullying

- Bullying can be defined as “*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 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.
- This 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 is recognised by the school as being a form of peer on peer abuse. It can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children’s emotional development.

In our school, we strive to create a happy, safe and caring learning environment where everyone feels safe. All cases of bullying are serious and any behaviour that adversely affects the well-being of another will not be tolerated.

Some pupils/learners may experience considerable difficulties with communication, social interaction and empathy which can affect their ability to reflect on the impact their behaviour has on others or to self-manage their behaviour.

These difficulties can mean that some pupils/learners are less likely to intentionally ‘bully’ others, although behaviour that could be bullying behaviour does occur on occasions.

While these actions may not have the same degree of intention as is usual when describing bullying, the effect on the targeted individual or individuals is the same and therefore must be addressed.

The way staff members deal with such incidents of behaviour that challenges should take account all individual needs.

6) Forms and types of bullying covered by this policy

- Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including:
 - Bullying related to physical appearance
 - Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
 - Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
 - Physical bullying
 - Emotional bullying
 - Sexual bullying
 - Bullying via technology, known as online or cyberbullying
 - Prejudicial bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics):
 - Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
 - Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
 - Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
 - Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
 - Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying
 - Bullying against teenage parents (pregnancy and maternity under the Equality Act)

7) School ethos

- Stone Bay School community recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing.
- By effectively preventing and tackling bullying our school can help to create a safe and disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.
- **Our Community:**
 - Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
 - Supports staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
 - Recognises that members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others because of their special educational needs. Being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.

- o Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- o Ensures our pupils, if appropriate, are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- o Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- o Recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed at all stages.
- o Will deal promptly with grievances regarding the school response to bullying in line with our complaints policy
- o Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- o Utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

8) Responding to bullying

- The following steps may be taken when dealing with all incidents of bullying reported to the school:
 - o If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
 - o The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.
 - o The headteacher or another member of leadership staff will interview all parties involved.
 - o The DSL and Deputy DSLs will be informed of all bullying issues where there are safeguarding concerns.
 - o The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
 - o The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentiality policies.
 - o Support will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.
 - o If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as the police, if a criminal offence has been committed, or other local services including early help or children’s social care, if a child is felt to be at risk of significant harm.
 - o Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying), the school will ensure that the concern is fully investigated. If required, a DSL will collaborate with other schools. Appropriate action will be taken, including providing support and implementing sanctions in school in accordance with this policy and the school’s behaviour policy.

- o A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.

Cyberbullying

Stone Bay School will access and refer to [Childnet's Cyberbullying guidance](#)

- When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:
 - o Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
 - o Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
 - o Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
 - o Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - looking at use of the school systems;
 - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
 - Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
 - o Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
 - Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
 - Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and the school searching and confiscation policy. (*Stone Bay School will ensure we access the DfE [‘Searching, screening and confiscation at school’](#) and [Childnet cyberbullying guidance to ensure that the schools powers are used proportionately and lawfully](#)*)
 - Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
 - o Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
 - o Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
 - o Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:
 - advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
 - providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists;
 - helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

Supporting pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- o Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous pastoral support.
 - o Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, team leader, a designated safeguarding lead, or a member of staff of their choice.
 - o Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
 - o Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
 - o Providing ongoing support; this may include: working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling, engaging with parents and carers.
 - o Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this could include support through Early Help or Children Social Work Service, or support through the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CYPMHS).
- *Pupils who have perpetrated bullying will be helped by:*
 - o Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
 - o Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
 - o Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
 - o If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
 - o Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Children Social Work Service, or the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CYPMHS).

Supporting adults

- Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of adults, including staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.
- *Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:*
 - o Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the Headteacher or another senior member of staff.
 - o Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience, as appropriate.
 - o 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.

- o Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
 - o Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
 - o Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.
- *Adults who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:*
 - o Discussing what happened with the Headteacher or another senior member of staff to establish the concern.
 - o Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
 - o If online, requesting that content be removed.
 - o Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

9) Preventing bullying

Environment

- The whole school community will:
 - o Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
 - o Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer on peer abuse).
 - o Recognises the potential for children with SEN and disabilities to be disproportionately impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.
 - o Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as: children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality or appearance related difference.
 - o Challenge practice and language (including 'banter') which does not uphold the school values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
 - o Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
 - o Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
 - o Actively create "safe spaces" for vulnerable children and young people.
 - o Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

- The whole school community will:
 - o Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.

- o Regularly update and evaluate our practice to consider the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- o Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools' attention, which involves or effects pupils, even when they are not on school premises; for example, when using school transport or online, etc.
- o Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.
- o Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully, and those who have been bullied.

Education and Training

- The school community will:
 - o Train all staff, including: education staff, residential staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, site support staff and pastoral staff) to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
 - o Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
 - o Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
 - o Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week
 - o Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

10) Involvement of pupils

- *We will:*
 - o Where appropriate, involve pupils in policy writing and decision making, to ensure that they have some understanding of the school's approach and are clear about the part they play in preventing bullying. The School Council and the Rights Respecting Squad will represent the pupils' views.
 - o Regularly canvas children and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying.

- o Ensure that all pupils have a means to express worries and anxieties about bullying at an appropriate level.
- o Where appropriate, ensure that pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- o Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- o Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support
- o Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- o Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

11) Involvement and liaison with parents and carers

- *We will:*
 - o Take steps to involve parents and carers in developing policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of bullying.
 - o Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats, including via the school website
 - o Ensure all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
 - o Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
 - o Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
 - o Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively, to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

12) Monitoring and review: putting policy into practice

- The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate.
- The named Governor for bullying will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes.

13) Useful links and supporting organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk
- Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk

- MindEd: www.minded.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The BIG Award: www.bullyinginterventiongroup.co.uk/index.php
- PSHE Association: www.pshe-association.org.uk
- Restorative Justice Council: www.restorativejustice.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Victim Support: www.victimsupport.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Young Carers: www.youngcarers.net
- The Restorative Justice Council:
www.restorativejustice.org.uk/restorative-practice-schools

SEND

- Changing Faces: www.changingfaces.org.uk
- Mencap: www.mencap.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities:
www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf
- DfE: SEND code of practice:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- The UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)
www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers and school staff':
www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying
- DfE 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying':
www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

Race, religion and nationality

- Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk
- Kick it Out: www.kickitout.org
- Report it: www.report-it.org.uk
- Stop Hate: www.stophateuk.org
- Tell Mama: www.tellmamauk.org
- Educate against Hate: www.educateagainsthate.com
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational

LGBT

- Barnardo's LGBT Hub: www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm
- Metro Charity: www.metrocentreonline.org
- EACH: www.eachaction.org.uk
- Proud Trust: www.theproudtrust.org
- Schools Out: www.schools-out.org.uk
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk

Sexual harassment and sexual bullying

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW)
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk
 - A Guide for Schools:
www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/71/EVAW-Coalition-Schools-Guide.pdf
- Disrespect No Body:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/disrespect-nobody-campaign-posters
- Anti-bullying Alliance: Preventing and responding to Sexual Bullying:
www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-gender-related/preventing-and-responding-sexual
- Anti-bullying Alliance: advice for school staff and professionals about developing effective anti-bullying practice in relation to sexual bullying:
www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/sexual-and-gender-related

Note: Additional links can be found in 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' (July 2017)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

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