Aspire-Learn-Succeed

<u>Anti Bullying Policy</u>

1. Policy Statement

Our school is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every child feels valued and able to learn without fear of bullying or harassment. Bullying of any kind—whether face-to-face, online, or through technology—is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

We believe:

All pupils have the right to learn in a safe and secure environment.

All pupils and staff should treat one another with respect.

All concerns about bullying will be taken seriously, investigated promptly, and acted upon appropriately.

2. Aims of This Policy

To prevent bullying behaviour through clear guidance, education, and a whole-school approach.

To raise awareness of bullying, including online risks.

To ensure pupils, parents, and staff know what to do if bullying occurs.

To support pupils who have experienced bullying.

To address the behaviour of those who bully and help them change.

To promote kindness, respect, and positive relationships across the school.

3. Definition of Bullying

Bullying is:

Repeated behaviour that is intended to hurt someone emotionally, socially, or physically, where there is an imbalance of power.

Bullying can be:

- Physical: hitting, kicking, pushing, damaging property
- Verbal: name-calling, insults, teasing, threats
- Social/Emotional: excluding others, spreading rumours, manipulating friendships
- Prejudicial: targeting someone due to race, religion, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other differences
- Online/Cyberbullying: using technology to harm, intimidate, exclude, or humiliate others

4. What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying includes:

- Sending threatening or abusive messages
- Sharing embarrassing photos or videos
- Posting hurtful comments online or in group chats
- Impersonating someone online
- Excluding others from online groups
- Spreading false information digitally

Cyberbullying can occur through:

- Text messages
- Social media
- Online games
- Messaging apps
- Emails
- School platforms or learning tools

Cyberbullying may happen inside or outside school hours; all incidents impacting a pupil's wellbeing will be addressed.

5. Prevention Strategies

a. Whole-School Approach

- Staff training on recognising and responding to bullying.
- Clear behavioural expectations, rooted in the school's values.
- Regular review of policies and safeguarding procedures.

b. Curriculum and Education

Bullying prevention is integrated into:

- PSHE lessons
- Computing/Online Safety
- Assemblies
- Circle time and restorative activities

Topics include:

- Respectful relationships
- Digital citizenship
- Recognising and reporting bullying
- Resilience and empathy

c. Creating a Safe Environment

Supervision in high-risk areas (playgrounds, corridors)

Online safety reminders in classrooms and on digital devices

Encouraging pupils to report concerns early

6. Reporting Bullying

Pupils are encouraged to report bullying to:

- Any trusted adult
- Their class teacher

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Anti-bullying ambassadors (if applicable)

Parents can report concerns via:

- The school office
- Email/phone call
- Speaking to the class teacher or senior leader

All reports are taken seriously.

7. Responding to Bullying

When bullying is reported, the school will:

- Investigate promptly – gathering accounts from all parties.
- Record the incident following safeguarding procedures.
- Support the child who has been bullied, ensuring they feel safe.
- Address the behaviour of the child demonstrating bullying, focusing on understanding, accountability, and change.
- Apply appropriate consequences, following the behaviour policy.
- Monitor the situation to ensure the bullying stops.

For cyberbullying:

Offensive messages or content may be saved as evidence.

School may request support from parents to restrict access to devices.

Serious incidents may be referred to external agencies (e.g., police, safeguarding partners).

8. Support for Pupils

Children affected by bullying may receive:

- 1:1 pastoral support (Place2be)
- Restorative conversations
- Access to wellbeing interventions
- Support with friendships and social skills

Pupils who display bullying behaviour may receive:

- Behaviour reflection sessions
- Restorative support
- Mentoring or nurture provision
- A structured plan to change behaviour

9. Role of Parents and Carers

We expect parents to:

- Encourage positive behaviour and respect
- Report concerns promptly
- Work with the school to resolve issues and not take issues into their own hands
- Monitor children's use of online platforms and devices

The school will:

Communicate concerns clearly

Work collaboratively with families

Provide guidance on supporting children online

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

Monitored by the Senior Leadership Team

Evaluated annually

Updated in line with safeguarding guidance and statutory expectations