

# Palatine Primary School

## Staying Safe Policy



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Signed chair of Governors:

Re-adopted & signed:

# Palatine Primary School: Staying Safe Policy

## Introduction

This policy reflects the belief held by all stakeholders in Palatine School that every pupil has the right to feel safe all of the time and to learn in a secure environment.

This policy has been compiled through consultation with all stakeholders.

The word 'bullying' will only be used with a stakeholder when they have full knowledge of what it means. E-safety is an integral part of this policy and plan, however the particular details of e-safety will be dealt with in a specific document.

This plan will be shared with and owned by pupils, parents, carers, wider community agencies, governors and all staff and volunteers within the school. We are a community.

## Legal Framework

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides that every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. It gives head teachers the ability to discipline pupils for poor behaviour that occurs even when the pupil is not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

The head teacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police of the action taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

If School staff feel that an offence may have been committed they should seek assistance from the police. For example, under the Malicious Communications Act 1998, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety, or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender. The wider search powers included in the Education Act 2011 give teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by providing for a specific power to search for and, if necessary, confiscate mobile phones or other means of electronic communication.

## Definition

Keeping safe and feeling secure within our environment means to be free of the fear of being bullied. Bullying behaviour is to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people.

Bullying generally takes four forms: physical, indirect, verbal and cyber.

At Palatine School we believe that:

All children and young people have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting a young person's well being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood.

At Palatine School we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils, so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere free from oppression and abuse.

Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone. All types of bullying are unacceptable at our school and **will not** be tolerated. All pupils should feel able and should be encouraged to tell an adult if they feel unsafe or victimised.

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be bullied. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Educating our students on how to keep safe is the responsibility of all adults working within Palatine School. Conversely, educating students in order to change the behaviour of those who would seek to make others feel unsafe is also the responsibility of these same adults.

As a responsible community we will work with other key adults to promote this aspect of the pupil's education.

## **Objectives**

- All adults working within the school (including volunteers) parents/carers and pupils understand what bullying is. All will have a role to play in the implementation of this policy and strategic plan.
- The wider community will be involved and included into our curriculum delivery.
- Pupils will develop through the curriculum and Learning Powers the emotional and social skills necessary to become responsible young people.
- They will have ownership of their own safety, and, where possible, that of their peers.
- Students who have been bullied, who display bullying behaviour and witness bullying will receive equal support.
- As a community we will take a pro-active approach to keeping safe. We will take effective action to prevent incidents of bullying.
- Areas of the school and times of the day when pupils feel less safe will be identified and systems put in place to minimise this.
- There will be consistency across the whole of the school in our approach to Keeping Safe and the implementation of the strategic plan.

### **Success will be seen as:**

- Full ownership of the strategic plan and its delivery by all stakeholders in that they will have input to it. This includes all Palatine pupils, staff and governors; parents, carers, and any other relevant wider community personnel.
- All stakeholders will understand the term 'bully' and 'victim' in whichever way is appropriate for their cognitive understanding.
- All staff will receive regular input to their understanding of the development of positive emotional and social behaviour, recognition of the signs of victim, cyber bullying and e-safety.
- Parents and carers will be kept informed about e-safety for their children.
- All incidents of bullying will be recorded and this will be consistent across the school. This in turn will enable monitoring systems to work effectively to protect victims of bullying and persistent bullying behaviour can be challenged and managed.
- Pupils' social and emotional development along with specific and targeted delivery on Keeping Safe will be understood to have a key impact on the successful implementation of this policy. Aspects of our curriculum delivery will reflect this.
- Delivery will be in multi sensory form, included within PD, English, Music and Art lessons as well as assemblies and circle times. This will ensure that all students receive and understand the delivery regardless of their learning style. This promotes Keeping Safe as a total constant approach.
- All delivery will follow a whole school planned and structured approach which will be available for inspection by any interested parties.
- Visual reminders of our commitment to Keeping Safe will be seen throughout the School. This will be in the form of display work designed and produced by the pupils.
- Positive social behaviour (in particular in regard to their peers) will be noticed and celebrated.
- Pupils will be educated and encouraged to feel secure enough to tell an adult if they witness bullying or are being bullied. They will be secure in the knowledge that they will be supported. Conversely, all school staff will be empowered (through continuity of approach) to handle incidents effectively.
- A victim of bullying will never be blamed or told to ignore the behaviour which is upsetting them.