



Registered Charity No: 1128799

# The Hollies Pre-school

## Anti Bullying Policy

Last reviewed August 2024

To be reviewed August 2028

or sooner if there are any changes to statutory requirements.

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## **Statement of Intent**

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our pre-school, breakfast club, after school club and holiday club. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* setting. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff. If a member of staff feels they are being bullied, or feels threatened, they must report it to the Manager, a Supervisor or the Chairperson.

## **What Is Bullying?**

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse  
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls  
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

## **Cyberbullying**

Central to our Setting's anti-bullying policy is the principle that 'bullying is always unacceptable' and that 'all pupils have a right not to be bullied'.

The setting recognises that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside of the setting which spills over into the setting and so we will respond to any bullying including cyber-bullying that we become aware of carried out by children when they are away from the site.

Cyber-bullying is defined as "an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself."

By cyber-bullying, we mean bullying by electronic media:

- Bullying by texts or messages or calls on mobile phones
- The use of mobile phone cameras to cause distress, fear, or humiliation
- Posting threatening, abusive, defamatory, or humiliating material on websites, to include blogs, personal websites, social networking sites
- Using e-mail to message others
- Hijacking/cloning e-mail accounts
- Making threatening, abusive, defamatory, or humiliating remarks in on-line forums

Cyber-bullying may be at a level where it is criminal.

If we become aware of any incidents of cyberbullying, we will consider each case individually as to any criminal act that may have been committed. The setting will pass on information to the police if it feels that it is appropriate, or we are required to do so.

## **Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?**

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Children and adults who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

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

## **Objectives of this Policy**

- All adults and children should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All staff, parents and children should know what the settings policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All children and parents should know what the settings policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a pre-school/breakfast club/after-school and holiday club we take bullying seriously. Pupils, parents and staff should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

## **Signs and Symptoms**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from pre-school, breakfast club, after-school or holiday club;
- is unwilling to go to pre-school, breakfast club, after-school or holiday club (school phobic);
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence;
- starts stammering;
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares;
- feels ill in the morning ;
- begins to make less progress in pre-school;
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged;
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing";
- asks for money or starts stealing money;
- has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable;
- is bullying other children or siblings;
- stops eating;
- is frightened to say what's wrong;
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above;

- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone;
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

## **Procedures**

1. Report bullying incidents to a staff member, the Manager, a supervisor or the Chairperson.
2. In cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
3. Parents will be informed and if considered appropriate will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the matter.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change his/her behaviour.

## **Outcomes**

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
- 3) If possible, the children will be reconciled, possibly through Restorative Justice (RJ).
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## **Prevention**

We will use KIDSCAPE methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of rules for pre-school, breakfast club, after-school and holiday club;
- signing a breakfast club/after-school behaviour contract;
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying;
- reading stories about bullying and behaviour;
- making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role-plays);
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters.

## **Staff**

Incidents involving staff should be dealt with through the staffing policy.

## **HELP ORGANISATIONS:**

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	<a href="http://www.bullying.co.uk">www.bullying.co.uk</a>