

# NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST



# ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

|                                    |             |
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| <b>Policy written by:</b>          | SLT         |
| <b>Policy written/reviewed:</b>    | Summer 2025 |
| <b>Next review due:</b>            | Summer 2026 |
| <b>Statutory Trustee Approval:</b> | May 2025    |

## Introduction

This policy is based on DfE guidance 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' and supporting documents 'Cyberbullying: advice for Headteachers and school staff' and 'advice for parents and carers on cyber bullying' July 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

### 1) Objectives of this Policy

This policy outlines what NGHS will do to prevent and tackle bullying. The policy has been drawn up through the involvement of the whole school community and we are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture whereby no bullying, including:

- Bullying of pupils by pupils within school
- Bullying of and / or by pupils outside of school, where the school is aware of it
- Bullying of staff by pupils within or outside school

This school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves and to be included in a safe and happy environment. Everyone at our school is equal and should be treated with respect.

### 2) Our school community:

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school. The safety, welfare and wellbeing of all our students and staff is a key priority. We take all incidents of bullying seriously and it is our duty as a whole school community to take measures to prevent and tackle any bullying, harassment or discrimination. Our school community does this by:

- Discussing, monitoring and reviewing our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supporting all staff to promote positive relationships to prevent bullying and will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensuring that students are aware that all bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that students feel safe to learn; and that students abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Reporting back to parents/carers regarding their concerns on bullying and dealing promptly with complaints. Parents/carers in turn work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Seeking to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere and utilising support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate.

### 3) Definition of bullying

For the purpose of this policy, "bullying" is defined as persistent behaviour by an individual or group with the intention of verbally, physically, or emotionally harming another person or group. Bullying is generally characterised by:

- **Repetition:** Incidents are not one-offs; they are frequent and happen over an extended period of time.
- **Intent:** The perpetrator means to cause verbal, physical or emotional harm; it is not accidental.
- **Targeting:** Bullying is generally targeted at a specific individual or group.
- **Power imbalance:** Whether real or perceived, bullying is generally based on unequal power relations.

### 4) Types of bullying

Many kinds of behaviour can be considered bullying, and bullying can be related to almost anything. Teasing another student because of their appearance, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, home life, culture, or SEND are some of the types of bullying that can occur.

The nature of bullying can be:

- **Physical:** some examples of this include pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching
- **Verbal:** some examples of this include name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling
- **Emotional:** some examples of this include isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation, coercion
- **Online:** posting on social media, sharing photos, sending unpleasant text messages, social exclusion

- **Racist bullying:** Bullying another person based on their ethnic background or skin colour. Racist bullying is a criminal offence under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Public Order Act 1986. We also have a duty to report incidents of racist bullying to the local authority.
- **Homophobic and biphobic bullying:** Bullying another person because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.
- **Transphobic bullying:** Bullying based on another person's gender identity or gender presentation, or for not conforming to dominant gender roles.
- **Sexist bullying:** Bullying based on sexist attitudes expressed in a way to demean, intimidate or harm another person because of their sex or gender. Sexist bullying may sometimes be characterised by inappropriate sexual behaviours.
- **Sexual bullying:** Bullying behaviour that has a physical, psychological, verbal or non-verbal sexual dimension or dynamic that subordinates, humiliates or intimidates another person. This is commonly underpinned by sexist attitudes and gender stereotypes.
- **Ableist bullying:** Bullying behaviour that focuses on another person's disability or support needs; this can include mocking the individual's disability or their needs, using derogatory words or slurs in relation to an individual's disability, or deliberately excluding an individual because of their disability.
- **Prejudicial bullying:** Bullying based on prejudices directed towards specific characteristics or experiences, e.g. religion or mental health issues.
- **Relational bullying:** Bullying that primarily constitutes of excluding, isolating and ostracising someone – usually through verbal or emotional bullying.
- **Socioeconomic bullying:** Bullying based on prejudices against the perceived social status of the victim, including, but not limited to, their economic status, their parents' occupations, their health or nutrition level, or the perceived "quality" of their clothing or belongings.

Where a crime is thought to have taken place this will be reported to relevant external agencies.

**No form of bullying will be tolerated and all instances will be taken seriously.**

## 5) Reporting Incidents of Bullying

If a student is being bullied they are encouraged to not retaliate but to tell someone they trust about it such as a friend, family member or trusted adult. They are also encouraged to report any bullying incidents in school:

- **Report to a teacher:** such as Form Tutor, Head of Year or any other trusted adult
- **Report to another student:** such as a friend or member of the Head Girl Team
- **Report to other school staff:** such as school counsellor or school nurse
- **Call ChildLine to speak to someone in confidence on 0800 1111**

## Reporting – Roles and Responsibilities

**STAFF:** All school staff have a duty to report bullying, to be vigilant to the signs of bullying and to play an active role in the school's efforts to prevent bullying. If staff are aware of bullying, they should reassure the students involved and inform the Head of Year who may liaise with the DSL.

**SLT:** The Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher have overall responsibility for ensuring that the anti-bullying policy is followed by all members of staff and that the school upholds its duty to promote the safety and wellbeing of all young people. A member of SLT is responsible for anti-bullying.

**PARENTS AND CARERS:** Parents and carers should look out for potential signs of bullying such as distress, lack of concentration, feigning illness or other unusual behaviour. Parents and carers should tell their child not to retaliate and support and encourage them to report the bullying. Parents and carers can report an incident of bullying to the school either in person, or by phoning or emailing the school office and talking to the Form Tutor / Head of Year.

**STUDENTS:** Students should not take part in any kind of bullying and should watch out for potential signs of bullying among their peers. They should never be bystanders to incidents of bullying. If students witness bullying they should support the victim, encourage them to report the bullying and, if possible, accompany them to tell a trusted adult.

## **6) Responding to bullying**

When bullying has been reported, the following actions will be taken:

- Staff will record the bullying on our CPOMS system.
- Heads of Year will monitor the bullying log and a member of SLT will inform the Headteacher and trustees of the type of incidents that are reported on a regular basis.
- Support will be offered to those who are the target of bullying from the Pastoral Team in school
- Staff will pro-actively respond to the bully, who may require support from the Pastoral Team but they will also be sanctioned for their actions in line with our Behaviour Policy.
- Pastoral staff will inform parents and carers as necessary.
- Pastoral staff will assess whether any other authorities need to be involved, particularly where actions also take place outside of school.

## **7) Bullying outside of school**

Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it takes place inside or outside of school. Bullying can take place on the way to and from school, before or after school hours, at the weekends or during the holidays, or in the wider community. The nature of cyber bullying in particular means that it can impact on students' wellbeing beyond the school day. Staff, parents and carers, and students must be vigilant to bullying outside of school and report and respond according to their responsibilities as outlined in this policy.

## **8) Derogatory Language**

Derogatory or offensive language is not accepted and will not be tolerated. This type of language can take any of the forms of bullying listed in our forms of bullying. It will be challenged by staff and recorded and monitored on SIMS and CPOMS and follow up actions and sanctions, if appropriate, will be taken for students and staff found using any such language. Staff are also encouraged to record the casual use of derogatory language on CPOMS.

## **10) School initiatives to prevent and tackle bullying**

We use a range of measures to prevent and tackle bullying, including:

- The PSHE programme of study includes opportunities for students to understand about different types of bullying and what they can do to respond to and prevent bullying.
- Form time provides regular opportunities to discuss issues that may arise in class and for form tutors to target specific intervention.
- Whole-school and year group assemblies help raise students' awareness of bullying and use of derogatory language.
- Difference and diversity are celebrated across the school through promotion of awareness days, such as anti-bullying week, Black History Month, Culture Day and LGBT History Month, with events being led by the Health and Wellbeing student group.
- The school ethos and values of equality and respect are embedded across the curriculum to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible.
- Stereotypes are challenged by staff and students across the school.
- Peer-mentoring and the work of the Health and Wellbeing group offer support to all.
- Students are continually involved in developing school wide anti-bullying initiatives through consultation with the Health and Wellbeing group and school council.
- Creating and supporting an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others which will be upheld by all.
- Actively creating 'safe spaces' for vulnerable children and young people.

## **11) Links with other school policies and practices**

This Policy links with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour and Rewards policy
- Complaints Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Online Safety Policy

- ICT and Internet Acceptable Use Policy: Staff / Students
- Home-School Agreement
- Curriculum Policies such as PSHE and RSHE
- Mobile phone Policy

## **12) Links to legislation**

There are a number of pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying as well as criminal law. These may include:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024
- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986
- Communications Act 2003
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998

## **13) Monitoring & review, policy into practice**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually.

The SLT link for bullying will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying and outcomes. 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.