

Castle Donington College



Anti Bullying Policy

Date Adopted	September 2025
Review Date	September 2027

The College follows Guidance and Advice given by the Government when writing policies; in light of this, changes may need to be made after the adoption of this policy and prior to the review date.

Statement of Intent:

We are committed to providing a caring and safe environment for all of our pupils, so they can learn in a supportive and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our school. We believe that preventing and tackling bullying should have a high priority within the school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff, parents/carers or a trusted adult.

By law, Castle Donington College must have measures in place to prevent all forms of bullying. The following laws highlight the need for all schools to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying:

- The Education and Inspection's Act 2016 section 86.
- The Education (Independent Schools standards) regulations 2014.
- Education Act 2011 (updating and amending the Education Act 1996).
- The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023.
- The Children Act 1989.
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997.
- Malicious Communications Act 1988.
- Communications Act 2003.
- Public Order Act 1986.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance and advice.

Other policies which relate to our Anti- Bullying Policy are as follows:

- Behaviour Policy.
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Staff Code of Conduct.
- Acceptable Use for Online Learning Policy.
- Child-on-Child Abuse Policy.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is purposefully causing hurt and distress to the victim. It is different from other types of aggressive behaviour because it is defined as something that happens repeatedly and is directed specifically at an individual or group.

We define bullying as physical or verbally aggressive behaviour that occurs 'Several Times on Purpose'. The school uses this definition to help pupils understand the seriousness of bullying compared to other unacceptable behaviours and provides the 'STOP' acronym that also leads to pupils knowing they should 'Start Telling Other People'.

This acronym is used by many of our feeder primary schools in the same way, and therefore the consistency is positive for our pupils.

Bullying can be:

Emotional: being unfriendly, unkind, excluding, isolating, tormenting

Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence

Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments

Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Cyber: misuse of the internet to intimidate, including by email and social media sites, mobile threats by text messaging and calling, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities, sexting - when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others, or sends sexually explicit messages.

Perpetrators may use different pretexts as the basis of their bullying, basing their comments or actions on:

- The religious background or faith of the person bullied.
- A disability perceived physical difficulty or Special Educational Need.
- The race of the victim: e.g. racist name calling, taunts, graffiti or gestures.
- The sexuality of the victim: e.g. homophobic bullying.

Bullying can also take place through third person involvement i.e. another person being encouraged to take part in any of the behaviours above and maybe seen as indirect bullying.

All staff should also be aware to the possibility of a member of staff bullying a pupil. Should anyone suspect that this is taking place this should be reported immediately to the Principal. If the Principal is suspected of bullying, the matter should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

Castle Donington College will not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment. All incidents will be taken seriously and could provide grounds for disciplinary action that may lead to dismissal or expulsion from the school. Furthermore, individuals who bully or harass may be subject to criminal and/or civil prosecution.

Castle Donington College- Definition of bullying:

It is important to understand that bullying is not an occasional falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional 'joke' is played on someone. Pupils do sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of a pupil's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

Bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and victim which may manifest itself in several ways, such as those listed above.

We define bullying as these acts Several Times on Purpose (STOP)

Cyberbullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potential bigger audience. The Education Act 2011 amended the power in the Education Act 1996 to allow staff who have been authorised by the Principal to examine data or files on mobile devices, and delete these, where there is good reason. In addition, Castle Donington College will report any issues to the police and other agencies, if necessary, if staff believe an offence may have taken place or pupils are at risk of harm.

If not addressed or known about, bullying can lead to Child-on-Child abuse. Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying, and everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Objectives of this Policy

- All Leaders, teaching and support staff, pupils and parents/carers should understand what bullying is.
- All Leaders, teaching and support staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents/carers should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- All understand the responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

To protect the most vulnerable pupils in school including those with Special Educational Needs, those new to school and those that are at risk of harm, this policy links directly to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs And Symptoms:

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

- Is frightened of walking to or from school.
- Doesn't want to go on public transport including buses and taxis.
- Insists on being driven to school.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic).
- Begins to truant.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence.
- Starts stammering.
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away.
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares.
- Feels ill in the morning.
- Begins to do poorly in schoolwork.
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged.
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing".
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay someone who has asked them for money)
- Has dinner or other monies continually "lost".
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises.

- Comes home hungry (money / lunch has been stolen).
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable.
- Is bullying other pupils or siblings.
- Stops eating.
- Is frightened to say what is wrong.
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone or always needing to be on social media.
- Hypervigilance around others.
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber-message is received.

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

Procedures - Reporting:

Pupils:

- Pupils are encouraged to STOP - 'Start Telling Other People'
- They are encouraged to report possible bullying to any member of staff they trust, a friend or a member of their family.
- Pupils who are 'bystanders' are encouraged to support their peers by reporting any suspected bullying.

Staff:

- All staff are responsible for the health and wellbeing of the pupils and have a duty to respond seriously to any claim of bullying.
- All incidents of suspected bullying will be dealt with by the member of staff it is reported to, usually the Head of Year, Form Tutor, DSL alternatively it will be passed onto another member of staff who is more able to deal with the incident.
- If staff are unable to investigate the matter, they must refer it immediately to the relevant Head of Year or DSL. SLT will also be informed if the incident is of a very serious nature and a sanction is required.
- If bullying is confirmed, it will be logged in the school bullying log on Go4Schools.
- All instances of bullying will be recorded and monitored for patterns of behaviour.
- Lunchtime supervisors report to the Heads of Years/SLT on duty who in turn report to the Head of Safeguarding as appropriate.

Parents:

- Parents/Carers are encouraged to share any concerns with their child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.
- In serious cases parents/carers should be informed and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem.
- If necessary and appropriate, particularly if behaviour in school is repeated out of school, police will be consulted.

Procedures - Outcomes:

Victim:

- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated immediately, and the bullying stopped.
- Victims will be reassured that they have done nothing to deserve the bullying and that what may have happened is not their 'fault'.
- The victim will be consulted with on how to rebuild relationships with the perpetrator if they want to do this.
- Following investigations, staff will periodically 'check in' with pupils that have been the victim of bullying to ensure that the pupil feels happy and secure at school.
- Interventions may be put in place to support the victim and support them in developing appropriate skills to protect themselves from bullying behaviours.

Perpetrator:

- Importantly, the perpetrator should be helped to realise that bullying will not be tolerated, that it must stop immediately and that there can be no re-occurrence.
- Pupils are helped to reflect upon their actions and to empathise with how the bullied pupil may feel and restorative work will take place.
- Pupils who have bullied are supported to modify their behaviour - this may be through individual or group interventions, including pastoral support and involvement of parents to reinforce the unacceptable nature of bullying.
- Other consequences may take place such as detention after school and at break/lunch times, internal isolation, report cards, bespoke timetable, or loss of other 'privileges' in school.
- Suspension for one or more days may be considered if appropriate.
- A change of class and/or tutor group, and bespoke provision may be considered in exceptional situations.
- Escalation to other sanctions including Alternative Provision and/or a short-term or long-term off-site direction to another school will also be considered, in line with the Behaviour Policy.
- After incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- The school works closely with the local police to make sure that any incidents outside school are reported to the school so that pupils involved can then be monitored inside school as appropriate.

Parents:

- Parents/carers of both victim and perpetrator will be kept informed throughout the process.
- Close contact will be maintained with the victim's parents or carers to ensure that the victim adjusts positively back to school life as quickly as possible.
- Parents/carers views will be considered, but the school will stress that wherever possible reconciliation will be considered in order to provide clear resolution for all concerned while not condoning the bullying.

Reconciliation:

- The perpetrator will be asked at a suitable point to genuinely apologise, in writing or in person.
- Pupils will be encouraged to reconcile any issues over a period of time so that any injustice can be rectified.
- Some pupils will be asked to participate in one to one or group interventions to support their social development and reduce the incidents of bullying behaviours.

Procedures - Recording:

- All serious behaviour incidents are recorded on Go4Schools. Where an incident is also a safeguarding concern, this will also be logged on CPOMS.
- Concerns about pupils are recorded by the Head of Year and shared with relevant staff.
- Half termly reports are analysed and evaluated by the Pastoral Team to measure the success of our policies of poor or challenging behaviour. Termly reports are made to the Governors.
- The year teams are responsible for co-ordinating the recording system, liaising with class teachers and other staff to ensure that incidents of bullying are not missed.

Prevention:

We aim to help pupils to prevent bullying, by reinforcing our policy through:

- Ethos of good behaviour within school and following our 'Donington Way' values
- Pupils are encouraged not to be bystanders.
- Senior Leadership Team, Pastoral Team, Lunchtime Supervisors support during unstructured times.
- A cross-curricular focus on anti-bullying as part of schemes of work, where appropriate.
- Assemblies and events to support appropriate behaviours.
- Tutor time activities, Citizenship and PSHE lessons.
- Individual or group interventions.
- Restorative conversations
- Individual mentoring or support.
- Liaison with Inclusion department, where appropriate.
- Referrals to other agencies to support.
- Whole school surveys.
- Reports and behaviour contracts.
- Starter buddies for pupils new to the school.
- Information shared with parents/carers through parents' evenings and events, newsletters and messages home.
- Scrutinising trends and the results of surveys, and external reviews where necessary, to ensure prevention of bullying is as effective as possible.
- Participation in the National Anti-Bullying week in November each year, involving all pupils in discussions about acceptable behaviours and ensuring all pupils know what procedures should be followed.

The school has a clear Behaviour Policy that rewards positive behaviour. The school rules are clear and straightforward and focus on positive attitudes. Records of Behaviour for Learning and sanctions are kept which may be used to reveal patterns of behaviour, which may be indicative of bullying. Staff have training to support their understanding of bullying, advice and guidance is shared with them. Vulnerable pupils may be flagged with staff to support vigilance. The school takes a pro-active stance towards challenging all behaviour at all times.

The school works closely with the local police and other agencies to make sure that any incidents outside school are reported to the school so that pupils involved can then be monitored as appropriate. Both pupils and parents are made aware of how to use the internet safely and of the possibilities of cyber bullying and to report such incidents to school and the police when appropriate.