

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Managing Behaviour

Providers are responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way



EYFS Statutory Framework 2014

17.1 Anti- Bullying Policy

Policy statement

At Ashton Keynes Preschool we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our Preschool. If bullying does occur, all children and parents/carers should feel safe to inform us and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

This policy is designed to support the Preschool behaviour policy.

What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

It includes:

- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching and other forms of violence or threats.
- Verbal - name calling, threats, racist remarks, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing
- Emotional - excluding, tormenting, ridicule or humiliation
- Social - unwanted physical contact or abusive comments
- Cyber bullying- bullying by email, over the phone and by text message or by using digital cameras and camera phones to intrude on the privacy of others.

Bullying is about a pre-meditated act, which relies on a stage of cognitive development in order to think the process through, and occurs generally in children 5 years and over.

Aims and Objectives

- Bullying is wrong and is damaging to individual people. Ashton Keynes Preschool proactively implements policies and procedures to prevent this, by developing a Preschool in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.
- We aim to deliver a safe and secure environment where all children can play and learn without fear or anxiety.
- This policy aims to produce a consistent response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- We aim to make all those connected with the Preschool aware of our opposition to bullying and staff have a responsibility to eradicate bullying in our Preschool.
- We do not tolerate any kind of bullying as stated above on any grounds whatsoever, and support all parties involved to gain a full understanding of our ethos.

This is developed through:

- All members of the Preschool being aware of and following the setting's policies,
- Circle Time and key person time activities where all children are given opportunities to develop social and emotional skills in order to make judgements about their behaviour and its effects on others;
- Stories, drama, role play and discussions in all curriculum areas where children are offered further opportunities to reinforce and promote positive behaviours and empathy skills;
- Awareness of issues being raised and discussed through circle times and participation in activities such as 'Friendship certificates';
- Staff being committed to always listen to and encourage children to be open about their feelings;

Rough and Tumble Play

The Preschool Learning Alliance has acknowledged and highlighted the need to recognise rough and tumble play as distinct from inappropriate or aggressive behaviour. Television or films, which include superheroes, often influence young children or weapon play and they will mimic this behaviour through their play. We endorse the following strategies to manage this kind of play:

- Recognise that this is pro-social play rather than aggressive
- Set boundaries for the games to be set out in
- Use planning opportunities to discuss the concept of 'good' and 'bad'.
- Support the play to find alternative solutions to weapon play, exploring different scenarios.

Hurtful Behaviour

Very young children are 'egocentric' which means that they put their own feelings before others, and even the most considerate child will have the occasional outburst due to frustration, anger or over exuberance. We acknowledge that this is a developmental area that needs to be nurtured and supported and that very young children do not intentionally wish to cause hurt. If hurtful comments are made, our strategies are:

- To recognise that very young children are not always able to manage their own feelings and deliver them appropriately
- Assist in this management to support their biological and cognitive development.
- Offer support to both parties and to discuss the issues through play, story times and circle time activities.

Procedures

Anti - Bullying Procedure

The role of the Preschool Manager

- It is the responsibility of the Preschool Manager to implement the Preschool's anti-bullying policy and to ensure that all staff (paid/unpaid) are aware of the policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying.
- The Preschool Manager ensures that all children begin to learn that bullying is wrong and that it is unacceptable behaviour in the setting. The Preschool Manager draws the attention of everyone to this fact through staff meetings and monitoring that this is being implemented on a regular basis.
- The Preschool Manager ensures that all staff is in receipt of sufficient training to be equipped to deal with any incidents of bullying.

- The Preschool Manager set the setting a climate of mutual support and praise for successes, so making bullying less likely. When people feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming setting, bullying is far less likely to occur.

The role of staff

- Staff in the Preschool take all forms of bullying seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. A record is kept of all incidents of bullying that happen in the setting and these are shared with the safeguarding officer (Felicity Harris).
- If staff witnesses an act of bullying they do all they can to support the person or persons who are being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the safeguarding officer (Felicity Harris), the key worker informs the child's parent.
- For all incidents of bullying an incident form should be completed. We record all incidents of bullying that occur within the Preschool.
- If practitioners become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a group, we deal with the situation immediately. This will involve supporting all parties to understand that this is not acceptable to be bullied, to be the recipient of bullying, and that the Preschool will deal with the situation very seriously. If the patterns repeat of bullying and the ABC system of behaviour management has not been effective in this respect, the child's parents should be asked to meet with the Preschool Manager.

The role of parents/carers

- Parents, who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact the Preschool manager immediately.
- Parents have a responsibility to support the Preschool's anti bullying policy and actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the Preschool.
- Parents are expected to help develop their child's social skills at all times, in support of the Preschool ethos.

Anti-bullying policy- the children's voice 2025

How we treat each other at Preschool:

"We use Kind Hands"

"We share"

"We help each other"

Legal framework

- EYFS Statutory Framework 2014

This policy was adopted by	Ashton Keynes Preschool	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	July 2025	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	July 2026	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory	Kate Gardiner	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Chair	