



Whole School Anti Bullying Policy

January 2016

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Section 1 Context including National and Local Policy and Legislation .

The profile of bullying and anti-bullying work locally and nationally has never been higher. Evidence from national and local research indicates that bullying is widespread and consultations with children repeatedly identify bullying as a key concern for them.

Protection from bullying and the right to attend education without fear is covered by a number of national legislative drivers and non statutory *guidance* (see *appendix A National Legislative and Policy Context*). In particular, The Education and Inspections Act (2006) requires every school to establish measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. The Equality Act (2010) requires schools to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation in relation to pupils who share a protected characteristic and therefore may be vulnerable to prejudice driven bullying.

The Ofsted inspection framework (2014) focuses on the 'Behaviour and safety of pupils at the school' as one of four key judgements. Under this judgement inspections will evaluate the effectiveness of measures established by schools to address all forms and types of bullying (see *appendix B Inspecting Schools*) This includes how schools routinely gather and analyse school data to monitor incidents of bullying and evaluate the school's anti-bullying responsive and preventative strategies.

Section 2 What is Bullying?

a) Our Shared Beliefs about Bullying

Bullying damages children's and young people's physical and mental health, including their self-confidence and ability to build and sustain relationships. It can also destroy self-esteem sometimes with devastating consequences and with the effects lasting into adult life. Bullying undermines the ability to concentrate and learn and can impact on children's and young people's chances of achieving their full potential at school and later in life. Bullying causes harm to those who bully, those who are bullied and those who observe bullying. This school believes that all children and young people have the right to learn and work in an environment where they feel safe and that is free from harassment and bullying. The purpose of this policy is to communicate how the school aims to create a climate and school environment in which everyone agrees that bullying is unacceptable and is committed to tackling it in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.

b) A Definition of Bullying

Bullying is a subjective experience that can take many forms. Various national and international definitions of bullying exist and most of these definitions have three things in common which reflect children's experience of bullying and evidence gained from extensive research in this area. The three common aspects in most definitions of bullying are that:

- It is deliberately hurtful behaviour.
- It is usually repeated over time.
- There is an imbalance of power, which makes it hard for those being bullied to defend themselves.

These factors are reflected in the DfE and Cambridgeshire CFA Services definition of bullying, which states that

'Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally' DfE2011.

At our school we define bullying as:

The intentional and (usually) persistent, verbal or emotional hurting of one person by another person or groups of people which may have a continuing harmful effect on the victim and where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

For the children at our school the definition of someone who bullies is someone who:

‘Deliberately keeps on hurting you by what they do or say, someone who threatens you and makes you too frightened to tell the teacher.’

c) Forms of Bullying

Bullying behaviour across all types of bullying can represent itself in a number of different forms. Children can be bullied in ways that are:

Physical – by being punched, pushed or hurt; made to give up money or belongings; having property, clothes or belonging damaged; being forced to do something they don’t want to do.

Verbal – by being teased in a nasty way; called gay (whether or not it’s true); insulted about their race, religion or culture; called names in other ways or having offensive comments directed at them

Indirect – by having nasty stories told about them; being left out, ignored or excluded from groups.

Electronic / ‘cyberbullying’ - for example, via text message; via instant messenger services and social network sites; via email; and via images or videos posted on the internet or spread via mobile phones.

Specific Types of Bullying

The school recognises that although anyone can be bullied for almost any reason or difference, some children may be more vulnerable to bullying than others. Research has identified various different types of bullying experienced by particular vulnerable groups of children. These include:

Specific These include:

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture
- Bullying related to special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities
- Bullying related to being gifted or talented
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions
- Bullying related to sexual orientation
- Bullying of young carers or looked – after children or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Sexist or sexual bullying

(See appendix C Specific Types of Bullying)

The school recognise that bullying is a complex type of behaviour occurring between individuals and groups. Different roles within group bullying situations can be identified and include:

- The ring-leader, the person who through their position of power can direct bullying activity
- Assistants/associates, who actively join in the bullying (sometimes because they are afraid of the ring-leader)
- Reinforcers, who give positive feedback to the bully, perhaps by smiling or laughing.

- Bystanders, who stay back or stay silent and thereby appear to condone or collude with the bullying behaviour
- Defenders, who try and intervene to stop the bullying or comfort pupils who experience bullying.

Some children can adopt different roles at different times, or at the same time (a bullied child might be bullying another child at the same time, or a seeming 'reinforcer' might become a 'defender' when the ringleader is not around).

d) Recognising Signs and Symptoms

The school recognises the fact that some children are more vulnerable to bullying than others and is sensitive to the changes of behaviour that may indicate that a child or young person is being bullied. Children who are being bullied may demonstrate physical, emotional and behavioural problems. The following physical signs and behaviour could indicate other problems but bullying will be considered as a possibility:

- Being frightened of walking to or from school
- Losing self confidence and self-esteem
- Being frightened to say what's wrong
- Developing unexplained cuts, bruises and other injuries
- Unwilling to go to school, development of school phobia and unusual patterns of non attendance
- Failing to achieve potential in school work
- Becoming withdrawn, nervous and losing concentration
- Becoming isolated and disengaged from other CYP
- Developing changes in physical behaviour such as stammering and nervous ticks
- Regularly having books or clothes destroyed
- Having possession go 'missing' or 'lost' including packed lunch and money
- Starting to steal money (to pay the perpetrator)
- Becoming easily distressed, disruptive or aggressive
- Developing problems with eating and food
- Running away
- Developing sleep problems and having nightmares
- Developing suicidal thoughts or attempting suicide

Where children are exhibiting extreme signs of distress and changes in behaviour, the school will liaise with parents/carers and where appropriate, relevant health professionals and agencies such as the school nurse / G.P. and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

e) Recognising reasons for why children may bully

The school recognises the fact that children may bully for a variety of reasons. Recognising why children bully supports the school in identifying children who are at risk of engaging with this type of behaviour. This enables the school to intervene at an early stage to prevent the likelihood of bullying occurring and to respond promptly to incidents of bullying as they occur. Understanding the emotional health and well-being of children who bully is key to selecting the right responsive strategies and to engaging the right external support. Possible reasons for why some children may engage in bullying include:

- Struggling to cope with a difficult personal situation e.g. bereavement, changes in family circumstances

- Liking the feeling of power and using bullying behaviour to get their own way
- Having a temperament that may be aggressive, quick tempered or jealous
- Having been abused or bullied in some way
- Feeling frustrated, insecure, inadequate, humiliated
- Finding it difficult to socialise and make friends
- Being overly self orientated (possibly displaying good self esteem) and finding it difficult to empathise with the needs of others
- Being unable to resist negative peer pressure
- Being under pressure to succeed at all costs

Section 3 – Implementing the Anti Bullying Policy in our School

a) Introduction

This Anti-Bullying Policy is set within the wider context of the school's overall aims and values. At The Grove Primary School :

- We promote a healthy, safe and caring environment for all pupils and staff.
- We provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils, having considered gender, ability and culture.
- We promote pupils' self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.
- We prepare our pupils to confidently meet the challenges of adult life.
- We provide sufficient information and support to enable our pupils to make safe choices.
- Through an enriched curriculum, we provide young people, with opportunities to develop the necessary skills to manage their lives effectively.
- We help our young people to learn to respect themselves and others and move safely from childhood, through adolescence, into adulthood.
- We create a wider awareness of religious, cultural and moral values within a Christian framework and respect for different ethnic groups, religious beliefs and ways of life.
- We promote an inclusive ethos and a culture of mutual respect where diversity and difference are recognised, appreciated and celebrated.

Other school policies and positional statements which support our Anti Bullying policy include those regarding Behaviour Management, PSHE, Equality, Inclusion and SEND, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Intimate Care policy, acceptable use of ICT policy, confidentiality, site and staffing.

The school believes that providing a safe and happy place to learn is essential to achieving school improvement, promoting equality and diversity, ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the school community and raising achievement and attendance. In line with national guidance the school has allocated specific responsibility for anti bullying work to the school's PSHE Lead who will support the coordination of a whole school approach to managing this important issue. This leadership role, in liaison with the headteacher, on anti-bullying includes the following core elements:

- Analysing and evaluating data to inform policy development
- co-ordinating anti-bullying curriculum opportunities
- overseeing the effectiveness of the anti-bullying prevention and response strategies
- supporting staff to ensure alignment with the school anti-bullying policy and practice.

b) Policy Aims

This policy aims to communicate the school's approach to involving the whole school community in developing and promoting a whole school anti-bullying ethos and culture. The policy provides clear guidance on how the school intends:

- To raise the profile of bullying and the effect it has on children and young people's emotional health and well being, life chances and achievement
- To make clear to everyone within our whole school community that no form of bullying is acceptable and to prevent, de-escalate and /or stop any continuation of harmful behaviour.
- To encourage and equip the whole school community to report all incidents of bullying, including those who have experienced being bullied and bystanders who have witnessed an incident
- To respond quickly and effectively to incidents of bullying within the overall positive behaviour management policy
- To safeguard and offer support and comfort to children who have been bullied.
- To apply reasonable and proportionate disciplinary sanctions to children causing the bullying
- To support children who are bullying in recognising the seriousness of their behaviour and to offer support and counselling to help them to readjust their behaviour
- To provide longer term support to promote the self esteem of those who have been bullied to reduce the likelihood of long term damage and also to address the emotional and behavioural needs of children who bully others to reduce the likelihood of repeated incidents of bullying
- To identify vulnerable children and those critical moments and transitions when they may become vulnerable, and provide additional support/safeguarding when needed.
- To ensure all staff are trained and supported and model positive relationships
- To regularly monitor incidents of bullying and harassment and report to responsible bodies e.g. governors
- To provide curriculum opportunities including an entitlement framework for Personal Social and Health Education and Citizenship that includes learning about bullying, discrimination, personal safety and domestic violence

c) Reporting Incidents of Bullying

The school encourages and equips the whole school community to report all incidents of bullying, including children who have experienced being bullied and bystanders who have witnessed an incident. The school endeavours to provide clear, accessible and confidential incident reporting systems, which include access to:

- Staff including teachers and support staff who are trained in listening skills and anti bullying issues
- Classroom question boxes
- Family Support Workerse.g. The Red Hen Project
- Direct contact between parents, children and staff

The school's incident reporting systems and guidance on defining bullying and recognising the signs and symptoms of bullying in children are recorded and communicated to the whole school community via:

- The school's anti-bullying leaflets
- School website
- Staffroom noticeboard
- School curriculum/open evenings for parents/carers

d) Responding to Incidents of Bullying

The school has an agreed procedure for responding consistently to incidents or allegations of bullying. Direct action to respond to incidents of bullying occurs within a context, which reminds all children that bullying behaviour is unacceptable to the school and will not be tolerated. At our school all children are encouraged to report incidents of bullying whether they have been bullied or have witnessed bullying. The school will investigate the incident including the context and the roles of the people involved.

When responding to incidents involving any type of bullying the school will consider the situation in relation to the school's Child Protection Policy and procedures. Statutory guidance on safeguarding children identifies 'Emotional Abuse' as featuring 'serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger; or the exploitation or corruption of children'. In cases of severe or persistent bullying, staff will liaise with the Designated Person for Child Protection particularly where there are concerns that a child or young person may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm in terms of emotional abuse.

In cases involving cyber bullying, the school will follow the guidance in appendix G in conjunction with the process described below.

(See appendix D Responding to Cyber bullying pdf)

When responding to incidents involving any type of bullying the school will consider the situation in relation to the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures. Statutory guidance on safeguarding children identifies 'Emotional Abuse' as featuring 'serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger; or the exploitation or corruption of children'. In cases of severe or persistent bullying, staff will liaise with the Designated Person for Child Protection particularly where there are concerns that a child or young person may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm in terms of emotional abuse.

The procedure and stages in responding effectively to bullying at our school are:

- **Monitoring and recording behaviour and relationship issues.** The school follows a clear pastoral support system, which enables challenging behaviour and relationship problems to be identified, recorded and addressed. This process is part of the school's overall behaviour management policy. It supports the detection of bullying and allows for intervention at an early stage. Each class has a pastoral file and there is a lunchtime behaviour book where incidents of incidents of poor behaviour and bullying are recorded. The school then uses the school's definition of bullying to assess situations as they arise and judge whether or not bullying has occurred or where a pattern of potential bullying behaviour may be developing.
- **Making sure the person being bullied is safe and feels safe.** When a child reports being bullied, the school will acknowledge their concerns and the incident will be taken seriously. Incidents of bullying reported by witnesses are treated in the same manner and will always lead to a conversation with the targeted child.
- **Establishing and recording what happened by listening to different perspectives, including those of the person bullied, the person doing the bullying and those that have witnessed the bullying ('bystanders').** Throughout this process a written record and log will be kept of the initial incident and any subsequent incidents. Records will be dated and kept in the class Pastoral File. If incidents escalate, and require the involvement of the Headteacher, a more formal recording system will be used.

(See appendix E Sample Bullying Incident Reporting Form)

Written records are factual and where opinions are offered these will be based on factual evidence. Recording incidents helps to build a picture of behaviour patterns in school e.g. who, when, how, what action taken. It enables the school to manage individual cases effectively and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies.

Note: In Cambridgeshire, schools regularly report prejudice-related incidents to the local authority. This information allows the local authority to compare school trends with locality area and county trends and enables the local authority to monitor the occurrence of incidents and identify underlying trends in racist, homophobic and disability-related bullying so that appropriate and relevant training and support can be provided to schools.

- **Deciding upon a response.** All incidents of bullying will be responded to seriously and the behaviour of those who have been bullying will be challenged. It will be made clear that such behaviour is unacceptable. In all cases of bullying the school will initially consider the use of a restorative approach to resolving the situation. The school believes that children causing harm should be held to account for their behaviour. This means:
 - Accepting responsibility for the harm caused to the individual being bullied;
 - Accepting responsibility for the harm caused to others (for example staff, friends or family);
 - Recognising the need to take action to begin to repair the harm caused; and
 - Agreeing a range of actions – in conjunction with all those involved- which will be monitored over an agreed period of time.

This approach supports the person who is doing the bullying through a process of mediation to help them to understand and accept that it is wrong to bully, take responsibility for their behaviour and make amends. This involves the person focusing on their unacceptable behaviour in an emotionally intelligent way. The school believes that all bullying is unacceptable but that many children who display anti social

behaviour and lack empathy for others can be helped to understand the consequences of their actions and change their behaviour.

*(See Appendix * Responding to Incidents of Bullying: The Support Group Method)*

Use of Sanctions

In certain cases of bullying, the school will consider the use of sanctions when responding to incidents of bullying. e.g. in cases of serious bullying such as where violence has been used or where a restorative approach has been unsuccessful in preventing further incidents of bullying. Sections A, B and C of the Bullying Incident Report Form will be completed (see Appendix D Sample Bullying Incident Report Form). This will involve recording what happened by listening to the different perspectives of all those reportedly involved in the incident, including those of the bullied person, the person doing the bullying and those that have witnessed the bullying ('bystanders').

Sanctions will be applied fairly and proportionately in accordance with the school's behaviour policy, taking account of any special educational needs or disabilities that children may have and taking into consideration the needs of vulnerable children. Bullying by children with disabilities or SEN is no more acceptable than bullying by other children. However for a sanction to be reasonable and lawful the school will take account of the nature of the children's disability or SEN and the extent to which they understand and are in control of what they are doing. Disciplinary sanctions are intended to:

- Impress on the perpetrator that what he/she has done is unacceptable
- Deter him/her from repeating that behaviour
- Signal to other children that the behaviour is unacceptable and deter them from doing it.

Sanctions for bullying are intended to hold the children who bully to account for their behaviour and ensure that they face up to the harm they have caused and learn from it. They also provide an opportunity for the children to put right the harm they have caused.

The consequences of bullying should reflect the seriousness of the incident. The school takes verbal and indirect bullying as seriously as physical bullying. When deciding upon appropriate sanctions for bullying the school will ensure that the sanctions address bullying behaviour in a way which does not lead to an escalation of the behaviour but instead supports a resolution to the problem. This approach gives the best chance that bullying will not be repeated. The school will draw upon the school's behaviour management policy and follow the system for sanctions, which includes:

- Removing/ separating children from other individuals or groups of children
- Removing/excluding children from certain whole school activities or key points in the day e.g. break times/ lunchtimes
- Withdrawing privileges

In the case of more serious and persistent bullying, where the perpetrator has not responded to the school's strategies (see above) or sanctions, the school may consider excluding the perpetrator from the school. Serious cases of bullying can include where violence and damage to property has taken place. The DCSF guidance for exclusion appeal panels makes clear that 'pupils responsible for violence and threatened violence should not normally be re-instated'. Some children who have been subjected to bullying can be provoked into violent behaviour. Where an attack has been provoked after months of persistent bullying, this will be considered differently from an unprovoked attack.

*(See Appendix * Responding to and Following Up Incidents of Bullying)*

Communicating with the whole school community. The school will communicate to the whole school community that the bullying has been taken seriously and has been responded to well. This will include talking to parents/ carers. (See Section Working With Parents/Carers)

Monitoring and following up with all parties concerned, including parents/carers to ensure that the bullying has stopped. Part of the school's process of responding to an incident is to seek an agreement to meet at some point in the future to see whether the situation has been resolved or whether further work needs to take place. This will include evaluating the effectiveness of the follow up strategies that have been put in place to ensure that the bullying has stopped. The school does not assume that a situation requires no further attention simply because a child has made no further complaints. Where a problem has not been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties the follow up strategies will be reviewed and/or further advice sought.

Responding to incidents of cyberbullying

The school will follow the above procedures and will seek guidance on responding to different forms of cyberbullying via organisations which provide information on the safe and responsible use of technology, such as Digizen

www.digizen.org/resources/cyberbullying/full-guidance.aspx

Responding to incidents of bullying which occur off the school premises.

The school recognises that bullying can and does happen outside school and in the community. Bullying is a relationship issue and its occurrence reflects the ways in which children socialise in school and in the wider community. The school believes that bullying is unacceptable wherever and whenever it happens.

The school encourages children to seek help and to tell us about incidents of bullying that happen outside the school so that the school can:

- raise concerns and take steps as appropriate e.g. contacting the police to alert them to trouble spots, gangs when incidents occur on buses/taxis etc
- alert colleagues in other schools whose pupils are bullying off the school premises
- make contact with local police officers, sports clubs and voluntary organisations)
- offer children and parents/carers strategies to handle bullying off the school premises and guidance on how to keep safe on the internet and when using their mobile phones

e) Working with Parents/Carers

Where the school has become aware of a bullying situation, parents/carers of the child who is being bullied will be invited to the school to discuss their child's situation. The school will endeavour to involve parents/carers constructively at an early stage to support the process of investigating allegations and positively working together to seek ways of resolving the situation and bringing about reconciliation. The outcome of the meeting and agreed actions/responses will be recorded by the school.

The school will work alongside those parents/carers whose children have been bullied to support them in developing their children's coping strategies and assertiveness skills. Parents/carers of those causing the bullying will also have support in coming to a balanced view of what is happening and appreciating their role in helping their children to learn about the consequences of their actions.

The school adopts a problem solving approach with parents/carers e.g. 'It seems your son/daughter and (other child) have not been getting on very well' rather than 'your son/daughter has been bullying....'.

While the school firmly believes that all bullying is unacceptable and that the perpetrators should be made to accept responsibility for their behaviour and make amends, the school understands that a cooperative ethos is desirable when trying to reach a resolution that is effective and long lasting.

The school takes parents/carers reporting bullying seriously. Parents are initially encouraged to refer their concerns to the class teacher. Senior members of staff such as Phase Leaders, PSHE Leader, the Deputy Head and Headteacher will be involved where appropriate. Parents/carers are encouraged to note details of the incident to share with the class teacher/ member of staff. A record of the incident and the agreed actions/response made at the meeting will be recorded by the school and added to the Pastoral File or in more serious incidents, the school's bullying incidents report form. The school will then invest the time to further establish and record what happened by listening to the different perspectives of all those reportedly involved in the incident, including those of the person bullied, the person doing the bullying and those that have witnessed the bullying ('bystanders').

The school ensures that staff and parents/carers remain fully aware of the measures that have been put into place to prevent the occurrence of further incidents. Follow up appointments are made with parent/carers to share these agreed measures and to monitor their success in preventing further bullying.

Guidance for parents/carers regarding advice on recognising the signs and symptoms of bullying in children and how to approach the school to register concerns/incidents and seek support is available via the:

- School anti bullying leaflet for parents/carers
- School website
- School behaviour, positive relationship and anti-bullying awareness events

f) Following Up / Supporting and Monitoring

The school employs a number of specific measure/strategies to minimise further risks of bullying and to ensure that children feel safe. Strategies include immediate and longer-term support for all parties including the person being bullied, bystanders and the person who has done the bullying. Many of the school's strategies include problem solving processes, which enable a situation to be disentangled and explored, and help to reveal underlying issues. In most cases the school will encourage honest and direct discussion and use a reconciliation process like this before going down the sanction route. Many of the following strategies involve active participation from children and involve children helping themselves and each other. Some strategies form a part of the school's anti bullying preventative work. Our strategies include:

- Providing opportunities for class circle times where children can explore the needs of their peers. These are planned sessions in which the teacher facilitates a safe and positive environment for children to take turns, if they choose, to talk about an issue of concern. The whole group is encouraged to listen carefully and discuss ways to help the individual in a problem solving way.
- Accessing support from external agencies and professionals including educational psychologists, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Specialist Teaching Services, Race Equality and Diversity Services (CREDS).
- Providing opportunities for children who have been bullied or are bullying to attend social skills groups to develop emotional resilience and learn skills in assertiveness, listening, negotiating and empathising with others.

- Providing support and nurturing groups such as 'Circle of Friends' where children can attend to discuss their friendship problems and receive support and advice from peers, some of whom may be trained mentors or have experienced similar distress and friendship problems.
- Access to school counselling services (Blue Smile, Red Hen)

g) Prevention

The school believes that the whole school community should work together to reduce bullying as part of our efforts to promote a positive and inclusive whole school ethos and create a safe, healthy and stimulating environment. Alongside the school's responsive strategies for dealing with incidents of bullying, the school adopts as part of our pastoral support system, a whole school approach to implementing proactive and preventative interventions at a school, class and individual level to reduce bullying. Our approach includes:

- Implementing an effective school leadership that promotes an open and honest anti bullying ethos
- Adopting positive behaviour management strategies as part of the school's Behaviour Policy
- Implementing a whole school approach to the teaching of PSHE and Citizenship and the implementation of the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Programme (SEAL)
- Implementing a Personal Safety Programme such as the Cambridgeshire Staying Safe Programme
- Ensuring that the school's anti bullying statement is actively promoted in assemblies and other formal occasions, as well as displayed around the school
- Providing training on behaviour management and anti bullying for all relevant staff including playground staff
- Providing a school council and regular circle time, enabling children to talk about their feelings and concerns in a safe environment and to enable them to share concerns about bullying
- Participating in the annual national Anti-Bullying Week and supporting learning on bullying through whole school activities, projects and campaigns
- Participating in the national annual anti bullying week and supporting learning on bullying through whole school activities, projects and campaigns
- Reviewing the development and supervision of the school inside and outside including the outdoor areas and playground to ensure provision is safe, inclusive and supports children's emotional wellbeing.
- Providing publicity including information leaflets for children and parents/carers to raise awareness of bullying and support those who are being bullied or have witnessed bullying to report incidents and seek help.
- Providing cross year group house systems to allow children from different age groups to socialise and support each other
- Providing a transition programme (e.g. using the 'Managing Change' Units of Work) to support children moving across year groups and key stages.
- Providing information on support agencies such as ChildLine, Kidscape and Beatbullying including telephone numbers for help lines and addresses for supportive websites
- Liaising with members of the community e.g. transport service providers, and engaging in community initiatives and safer school partnerships
- Working in partnership with other schools/local authority services on anti-bullying initiatives

h) Delivering the Entitlement Curriculum for Friendships and Relationships and Bullying in our school

The school acknowledges the role of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum in preventative work on bullying. The PSHE and Citizenship curriculum supports the development of children's self esteem and their emotional resilience and ability to empathise with others. The curriculum provides opportunities for children to learn and develop the skills to identify manage and challenge incidents of bullying as well as providing opportunities for children to learn about bullying in relation to the wider context of diversity and inclusion.

- The school adopts the Cambridgeshire Primary Scheme of Work for PSHE and Citizenship / Programme in which learning related to bullying, diversity and difference is covered within the themes of Myself and My Relationships and Healthy and Safer Lifestyles.
- The school implements the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Programme (SEAL) to support a whole school approach to enhancing children's learning and understanding in relation to social, emotional and behavioural skills.
- The school recognise and participate in the national anti bullying week, which provides an annual intensive focussed week on the subject of recognising and combating bullying.
- The school is starting to the Cambridgeshire Education Child Protection Service's Personal Safety units of work as part of the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme

Work on bullying as part of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum is taught through:

- Designated lessons, focussed events such as health weeks, assemblies
- Other curriculum areas such as Citizenship, Religious Education, Humanities, History
- Enrichment activities such as visits from the Life Education Centre, drama groups/ theatre in Education, outside agencies.
- Through the promotion of a set of core values in all aspects of school life

See school's PSHE and Citizenship positional statement for further detailed information on curriculum planning, teaching methodologies and teaching resources

i) Children's Consultation and Participation

The school considers listening to the voices of children and actively seeking their views and opinions regarding bullying as an important part of our preventative work. The school audits the way in which bullying is being addressed which includes, listening to children and ensuring they are given the opportunity to speak out, and have their voices heard on their experiences of bullying. Children are actively encouraged to participate in identifying both the problems and solutions to bullying; reviewing and developing the schools anti bullying policy and practice and engaging in initiatives to support an anti bullying ethos in school. Children actively participate in:

- Identifying when and where the bullying happens and who is doing it to whom
- Identifying new forms of bullying, such as cyber bullying
- Making decisions about how to address and tackle bullying
- Learning how to play an active participant role in challenging bullying

The school adopts a number of democratic methods / systems for promoting pupil consultation including:

- Class and school councils
- Focus groups and face to face discussions with small groups of children

- Active learning and interactive learning techniques included in PSHE and Citizenship such as mind mapping sessions, role play, puppets, group work and creative arts.
- Surveys including written questionnaires,
- Listening systems such as suggestion boxes

j) Whole Staff Awareness and Training Opportunities

The school endeavours to ensure that teachers and other adults working with children are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify and address all types and forms of bullying effectively and safely. Training will include recognising the signs of bullying in children and how to identify vulnerable children who may be susceptible to being bullied or becoming actively involved in bullying and bullying type behaviour. Training for staff is provided to ensure that they feel competent and confident in appropriately challenging bullying. Training also provides staff with a clear understanding of the school's policy and procedures on preventing and responding to incidents of bullying including providing short and long term support to those effected by bullying. The school's approach to anti bullying work is included within induction programmes for new staff. The views of staff are sought as part of the school's review and evaluation of the anti bullying policy and used to inform developments and enhance the school's anti bullying ethos and practice.

k) Involving Outside Agencies

The school seeks the support and guidance from relevant and local and national agencies and organisations that work collectively to ensure that those who work with and support children are equipped with the skills and knowledge to address bullying effectively. Local support and guidance is accessed from county wide services and through liaison with the school's multidisciplinary Locality Team and voluntary agencies and include the:

- Cambridgeshire PSHE Service
- Cambridgeshire Specialist Teaching Service
- Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Team
- Cambridgeshire Education Child Protection Service
- Local Authority Welfare Officers
- Local Authority Education Psychologists
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH)
- National Anti Bullying Alliance
- Other national organisations such as Child Line, Kidscape

l) Monitoring and Evaluating the Anti Bullying Policy

The school's anti bullying policy and practice is regularly monitored and evaluate to ensure its effectiveness. This process includes reviewing the school's definition of bullying and identifying new types and forms of bullying as they emerge. The policy review is coordinated by the PSHE Leader and involves monitoring and evaluating anti bullying preventative and responsive strategies to ensure the school's practice is effective and successful in fostering an ethos that inhibits bullying and promotes inclusion and respect for diversity.

The review process involves collecting data on the prevalence of bullying at the school and gathers the views and different perceptions of the whole school community including staff, governors, children (see section 3i) and parents/carers using a range of methods such as:

- *Surveys and questionnaires*
- *Focus groups and interviews*
- *Whole school audit tools*

The school regularly analyses records of bullying incidents to identify patterns of behaviour regarding individuals and groups of children, and places and times where bullying may be occurring. Other informative data includes:

- Parental complaints to the school or local authority regarding bullying
- Records of the Educational Welfare Service identifying where bullying is a factor in non attendance
- Exclusion data relating to bullying
- Risk assessment for children who exhibit sexually inappropriate or harmful behaviours.
- Transfer and admissions data, specifically requests for transfer due to bullying or harassment
- Outcomes achieved as part of the school's work on promoting children's well being 'Emotional Health and Wellbeing (including bullying)
- Information contained in School Development Plans

The results of the review are used to inform areas for school development, which are included in the School Improvement Plan and other appropriate actions plans.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Section 4 – Appendices

Appendix A - Bullying: National Legislative and Policy Context

The Schools Standards & Frameworks Act (1998) sets out the expectation that all schools are required by law to have an anti-bullying policy. Children and young people should be involved in both the development and the monitoring of the anti-bullying policy by being encouraged to discuss the policy and its effectiveness (compatible with Article 12 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989).

The Education Act (2002) gives schools and local authorities a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Guidance that shows how this duty applies, issued by the DfES, refers specifically to bullying as an issue that needs to be considered as part of keeping children and young people safe (DfES 2004). More recently a new section has been added to this act, which introduces a duty on schools' governing bodies to promote community cohesion.

The Education and Inspections Act (2006) imposes a statutory duty on governing bodies to promote wellbeing in the context of 'Every Child Matters' and the Children Act (2004). The act also creates a clear, statutory power for members of school staff to impose disciplinary powers for inappropriate behaviour of pupils; enables head teachers as far as is reasonable, to regulate and take action on behaviour that occurs outside the school premises and when a member of staff is not in charge of the students and reiterates the power of school staff to use physical force in certain circumstances.

Criminal Law Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour – or communication- could be a criminal offence, for example under the **Protection from Harassment Act (1997)**, the **Malicious Communication Act (1988)**, the **Communications Act (2003)** and the **Public Order Act (1986)**. If school staff feel that an offence has been committed they should seek assistance from the police. For example, under the Malicious Communication Act (1988), 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 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and The Anti Social Behaviour Act (2003) state that schools, youth clubs and other educational settings should liaise with their local police officers where acts of bullying become criminal e.g. harassment, assault, wounding and causing grievous bodily harm with intent, or the carrying of weapons

Equality Act (2010) brings together a raft of discrimination acts, regulations and codes of practice into one single act. It covers a number of protected characteristics. Those relevant for schools provision are: disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Schools and colleges must:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

This act is vital for the prevention of prejudice-related bullying in schools.

The Children Act (2004) sets out the expectation that all professionals who work with children are expected to work towards the five outcomes for children:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Bullying and discrimination feature as high-level aims in two of the five ECM outcomes – ‘Stay Safe’ and ‘Make a Positive Contribution’. Schools and local authorities will be held responsible for ensuring that children in their care achieve these outcomes.

The Ofsted inspection framework (2015) focuses on the “Personal development, behaviour and welfare’ as one of four key judgements. Under this judgement inspections will evaluate the effectiveness of measures established by schools to address all forms and types of bullying. This includes how schools routinely gather and analyse school data to monitor incidents of bullying and evaluate the school’s anti-bullying responsive and preventative strategies.

The Children and Families Act (2014) requires a Local Authority to produce a Local Offer that demonstrates the arrangements schools in their local area have in place for "*supporting the emotional mental and social development of disabled children and those with SEN (this should include extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to the views of pupils and students with SEN and measures to prevent bullying)*" - SEN Code of Practice June 2014

The DfE statutory guidance: Keeping children safe in education (2015) states that all school and college members of staff should be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect so that they are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection. This includes emotional abuse which may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger.

The DfE Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) states that professional should be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour or is showing early signs of abuse and neglect.

The Human Rights Act (2000) is based on the European Convention on Human Rights. The act contains two articles, which may be of particular relevance to a bullied child who fails to receive protection from bullying:

Article 3: ‘No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment’.

Article 6: ‘Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence’.

In order for a claim to be brought under the Human Rights Act, the bullying would have to be extremely serious and have resulted in physical or psychiatric damage which is supported by strong medical evidence.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991) contains the following articles relating to bullying:

Article 2: ‘All the rights must be available to all children whatever their race, religion, language or ability’.

Article 3: ‘A child’s best interests should always be the main consideration’.

Article 12: ‘Children’s opinions should always be taken into account in matters that concern them’.

Article 19: ‘Children have a right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated’.

Article 37a: 'No child should be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'.

Although the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child cannot be upheld in UK courts of law, the European Convention on Human Rights is a relevant international legal instrument that is legally binding; hence it can be enforced in UK courts.

This policy reflects recommendations and is consistent with the following national guidance:

DfES (2004) Bullying - A Charter for Action

DCSF (2007) Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion

DCSF (2007- 2010) Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools:

- Cyberbullying
- Bullying involving Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Homophobic Bullying
- Bullying around Racism, Religion and Culture
- Preventing and responding to Sexist, Sexual and Transphobic Bullying.

DfE (2014) Behaviour and Discipline; Use of Reasonable Force; Screening, Searching and Confiscation.

DfE (2014) Preventing and Tackling Bullying.

It also reflects former national programmes and strategies including:

DH/DfES (2006) National Healthy Schools Programme

DfES (2005) Primary National Strategy: Behaviour and Attendance

DfES (2005) Secondary National Strategy: Behaviour and Attendance

DfES (2005) Excellence and Enjoyment: Primary and Secondary Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning.

Appendix B - Inspecting Schools

Ofsted Framework for Inspection September 2015

The following criteria within the key judgement area of 'Personal development, behaviour and welfare' can be linked to the school's anti-bullying work. The judgement takes account of a range of evidence about behaviour and safety over an extended period. This evidence may contribute to inspectors' evaluation of how well the school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare

161. The CIF sets out the overarching criteria for judging personal development, behaviour and welfare.
162. Inspectors must make a clear written judgement about behaviour and a separate clear written judgement about personal development and welfare in the report. Where the judgements differ, the lower of the two will determine the overall judgement for personal development, behaviour and welfare and is recorded in the report.
163. Evaluating, judging and reporting behaviour and welfare in this way distinguishes between each aspect so that schools and parents clearly understand the two separate judgements. Inspectors must consider carefully the effectiveness of safeguarding when pupils' welfare is judged to require improvement or be inadequate.

Sources of evidence

165. Inspectors will make this judgement using evidence seen during the inspection as well as evidence of trends over time. The judgement will be informed by documentary evidence about behaviour, including how the school tackles poor behaviour, as well as discussions with and observations of pupils at break times, lunchtimes and between lessons. Inspectors will assess the school's use of exclusion, including the rates, patterns and reasons for exclusion, as well as any differences between groups of pupils.¹ Inspectors will gather the views of parents, staff, governors and other stakeholders.
166. Inspectors must take account of the views different groups of pupils express, their experiences of others' behaviour and attitudes towards them, and their understanding of the importance of such attributes in school and adult life.
167. Inspectors evaluate the experience of particular individuals and groups, such as pupils for whom referrals have been made to the local authority (checking how the referral was made and the thoroughness of the follow-up), disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs, looked after children, those with medical needs and those with mental health needs. Inspectors must look at a small sample of case studies about the experience of these pupils.
168. If the school runs (on its own or in partnership with other schools) an off-site unit for pupils whose behaviour is poor or with low attendance, an inspector must visit the unit. Inspectors will assess safeguarding procedures, the quality of teaching and how effectively the unit helps to improve pupils' behaviour, learning and attendance.

Appendix C -Types of Bullying

Bullying related to race, religion or culture

Racist or faith-based bullying is bullying based on a person's background, colour, religion or heritage. Some surveys and focus groups have found that a high proportion of bullied pupils have experienced racist or faith-based bullying. Recent political and social issues also appear to have been a factor in bullying and harassment. There is research to support the suggestion that where black and minority ethnic (BME) children experience bullying, it is more likely to be severe bullying. Moreover, bullying incidents can be a subset of the indirect and direct racist hostility which BME children, children of different faiths and Traveller children can experience in a number of situations.

When racist or faith-based bullying takes place, the characteristics singled out not only apply to the individual child but also make reference to their family and more broadly their ethnic or faith community as a whole. Racial and cultural elements in bullying can be seen to heighten the negative impact on a child's sense of identity, self worth and self esteem.

Schools have a statutory duty to log all incidents of racist or faith- based bullying and submit them on a regular basis (termly) to the local authority. This allows local authorities to monitor the occurrence of incidents and identify underlying trends in racist bullying so that appropriate and relevant training and support can be provided to schools. It is important to note that all incidents that are identified as potentially racist must be recorded, reported and investigated as such. The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (1999) defines racism as 'conduct or words which advantage or disadvantage people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. In its more subtle form, it is as damaging as in its more overt form'.

Bullying related to special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities

Research shows that children and young people with SEN and disabilities are more at risk of bullying than their peers. Public bodies have new responsibilities to actively promote equality of opportunity for all disabled people and eliminate disability-related harassment.

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, whether in mainstream or special schools, do not always have the levels of social confidence and competence and the robust friendship bonds that can protect against bullying. Where children with SEN and disabilities are themselves found to be bullying, in most cases (except those related to specific conditions) schools should expect the same standards of behaviour as apply to the rest of the school community, having made the reasonable adjustments necessary.

Bullying related to gifted and talented children and young people

Children and young people who are gifted and talented can be vulnerable to bullying. Their achievements, different interests and advanced abilities can set them apart from their peers and can lead to a sense of not 'fitting in' and feelings of isolation. Their talents and abilities may cause feelings of resentment and jealousy among their peers which may make them targets for bullying behaviour.

Bullying related to appearance or health conditions

Those with health or visible medical conditions, such as eczema, may be more likely than their peers to become targets for bullying behaviour. Perceived physical limitations, such as size and weight, and other body image issues can result in bullying, and obvious signs of affluence (or lack of it), can also be exploited.

Bullying related to sexual orientation

Homophobic bullying involves the targeting of individuals on the basis of their perceived or actual sexual orientation. Evidence of homophobic bullying suggests that children and young people who are gay or lesbian (or perceived to be) face a higher risk of victimization than their peers. Homophobic bullying is perhaps the form of bullying least likely to be self-reported, since disclosure carries risks not associated with other forms of bullying. The young person may not want to report bullying if it means “coming out” to teachers and parents before they are ready to.

Homophobic bullying includes all forms of bullying but in particular it can include:

- Verbal abuse - the regular use, consciously or unconsciously, of offensive and discriminatory language, particularly the widespread use of the term ‘gay’ in a negative context. Also spreading rumours that cause an individual’s perceived sexual orientation to be ridiculed, questioned or insulted
- Physical abuse – including hitting, punching, kicking, sexual assault and threatening behaviour
- Cyberbullying – using on-line spaces to spread rumours about someone or exclude them. Can also include text messaging, including video and picture messaging

Bullying of young carers or looked after children or otherwise linked to home circumstances

Children and young people may be made vulnerable to bullying by the fact that they provide care to someone in their family with an illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse problem. Young carers may be taking on practical and emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. Research has highlighted the difficulties young carers face, including risks of ill-health, stress and tiredness, especially when they care through the night. Many feel bullied or isolated. Children in care may also be vulnerable to bullying for a variety of reasons, such as their not living with their birth parents or because they have fallen behind in their studies. Some children and young people are heavily influenced by their communities or homes where bullying and abuse may be common. Some bullying at school may arise from trauma or instability at home related to issues of domestic violence or bereavement or from the experience of being part of a refugee family. Siblings of vulnerable children may themselves be the subject of bullying by association.

Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying

Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying affects both genders. Boys may be victims as well as girls, and both sexes may be victims of their own sex. Sexist bullying is based on sexist attitudes that when expressed demean, intimidate or harm another person because of their sex or gender. Sexual bullying may be characterised by name calling, comments and overt “looks” about appearance, attractiveness and emerging puberty. In addition, uninvited touching, innuendos and propositions, pornographic imagery or graffiti may be used. Children identifying as transgender or experiencing gender dysphoria (feeling that they belong to another gender or do not conform with the gender role prescribed to them) can also become a target of bullying.

SECTION A: ALLEGED BULLYING INCIDENT					
Target Name(s): _____ Age: _____ Year group: _____ Class: _____					
Ethnicity:		Gender: M / F		SEN Stage:	
Home language:		Looked-after child: Y / N		Young Carer: Y / N	
Member of staff to whom the incident was reported:					
Date of incident:					
Time of incident:					
Location of incident:					
Target's Account / Concern of parents/carers:					
Alleged perpetrator(s): Name(s): _____ Age: _____ Year group: _____ Class: _____					
Nature of incident including details of any injury or damage to property, etc:					
Circle any elements that apply: Form: Physical Verbal Indirect Cyberbullying Type: Race/religion/culture Sexual/sexist/transphobic Homophobic SEN/disability Home circumstances Gifted/talented Health conditions Other					
Parents/carers of alleged target(s) informed: Date: _____ Time: _____					

SECTION B: ACCOUNTS OF THOSE INVOLVED			
Alleged perpetrator(s) account of the incident			
Name(s):	Age:	Year group:	Class:
Bystanders' / witnesses' accounts of the incident			
Name(s):	Age:	Year group:	Class:
Parents/carers of alleged perpetrators informed:			
Date:	Time:		
SECTION C: ACTION TAKEN			
Details of immediate action taken:			
Monitoring of action taken and details of follow up and longer term action taken:			

Racist, homophobic and other prejudice related incidents

Note: In Cambridgeshire, schools submit termly reports of racist, homophobic and other prejudice- related incidents electronically on the PRIDE website pride.learnstogether.org.uk/ These incidents include prejudice – related bullying. Schools can access their ID number for the website by contacting the Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service Tel: 01223 703882 Email creds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Appendix E - Responding to and Following Up Incidents of Bullying

This appendix outlines the reconciliation processes and approaches the school will take when responding to incidents of bullying. This appendix includes guidance on the:

- Support Group Approach (previously called No Blame Approach),
- Method of Shared Concern
- Anti Bullying Council and contract of promises
- Peer Mediation Service using the 'My Turn, Your Turn' approach.

The Support Group Method (No Blame Approach) – How It Works

The Support Group Method, developed by Barbara Maines and George Robinson, was first outlined in Educational Psychology in Practice (1991). The approach addresses bullying by forming a support group of children and young people who have been bullying and/or have been involved as bystanders. It uses a problem-solving approach, without apportioning blame, giving responsibility to the group to solve the problem and to report back at a subsequent review meeting.

The Support Group Method – A Seven Step Structure

Step one – talk with and listen to the target

Aims of this step:

- To understand the pain experienced by the target
- To explain the method and gain permission to proceed
- To discuss who will make up The Support Group
- To agree what will be recounted to the group.

Step two – convene a meeting with the people involved

The facilitator arranges to meet with the group of children who have been involved and suggested by the target. A group of six to eight children works well. This is an opportunity for the facilitator to use their judgement to balance the group so that helpful and reliable children are included alongside those whose behaviour has been causing distress. The aim is to use the strengths of the group members to bring about the best outcome.

Step three – explain the problem

The facilitator starts by telling the group that s/he is worried about the target who is having a very hard time at the moment. By asking the group to listen to his/her own worries, the facilitator can divert some suspicion or irritation which might be directed towards the target.

The facilitator recounts the story of the target's unhappiness and may use a piece of writing or a drawing to emphasise the target's distress. At no time does the facilitator discuss the details of the incidents or allocate blame to the group.

Step four – share responsibility

When the account is finished the listeners may look downcast or uncomfortable and be uncertain about the reason for the meeting. Some may be anxious about possible punishment. The facilitator makes a change in the mood by stating explicitly that:

- no-one is in trouble or going to be punished.
- it is the facilitator's responsibility to help the target to be happy and safe but they cannot do it without the help of the group.
- the group has been convened to help solve the problem

Step five – ask the group members for their ideas

Group members are usually genuinely moved by the account of the target's distress and relieved that they are not in trouble.

Each member of the group is then encouraged to suggest a way in which the target could be helped to feel happier.

Ideas are owned by the group members and not imposed by the facilitator. The facilitator makes positive responses and does not go on to extract a promise of improved behaviour.

Step six – leave it up to them

The facilitator ends the meeting by passing over the responsibility to the group to solve the problem. S/he thanks them, expresses confidence in a positive outcome and arranges to meet with them again to see how things are going.

Step seven – meet them again

About a week later, the facilitator discusses with the target how things have been going. S/he then meets with the group to discuss how things have been going for them. This allows the facilitator to monitor the bullying and keeps the children involved in the process.

The meeting with the group can be held as a whole group or one member at a time. This meeting encourages the responsibility of each individual to help the target and provides an opportunity for their unique contributions to be recognised and valued.

The above description of the Support Group Method is taken from Lucky Duck Publishing website. www.luckyduck.co.uk.

The entire process showing the seven steps is available as a training video (Michael's Story - The No Blame Approach. Maines and Robinson, 1992). A fuller account of the development of the work is published in a book "Crying for Help." Robinson and Maines 1997 Lucky Duck Publishing Ltd.

The Support Group Method is a well recognised approach used in many schools and local authorities across the country. The approach was originally called 'The No Blame Approach' but has recently had a change of name due to misconceptions regarding the process because of the use of the words 'no blame'. The process does in fact enable those that bully to acknowledge the damage caused to others by their behaviour and supports those that are bullying to develop empathy for others and take responsibility for changing their behaviour. It is suggested that schools keep as closely as possible to the steps outlined in the process as this is a proven process and alterations to the protocol may jeopardize the positive effects of the process. However, having trailed this process, schools may feel that adjustments are required to ensure that the programme suits the needs of their school and individual children and young people. Schools may feel, for example, that where it is suggested that no notes are required in step 6, they may wish to make discrete notes after the meeting, for their own reference.

Appendix E - Responding to Cyberbullying - DCSF Guidance: Cyberbullying, A Whole-School community Issue

See separate pdf.