



Learn to Live  
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# HUNTINGTON CP SCHOOL

## DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

2025



**CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER  
SCHOOLS HUMAN RESOURCES**

*Date of Finance & Personnel Committee approval: 07.05.25*

*Date of Governing Board approval: 24.06.25*

*Next review date: Summer 2028*

Signed:  Chair of Governors

Signed:  Headteacher

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. All employees have the right to work in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect.
- 1.2. It is recognised that stress, loss of self-confidence and self-esteem caused by harassment or bullying can lead to job insecurity, illness, absence from work, and even resignation. Almost always job performance is affected and relations in the workplace suffer.

## **2. Aims/Principles**

Huntington Community Primary School is committed to the development and promotion of a positive workplace culture that is free from harassment and bullying and aims to ensure that any allegation of harassment or bullying at work is taken seriously and is dealt with appropriately.

## **3. Scope/Application**

- 3.1 This Policy applies to staff.

## **4. Policy**

- 4.1. Huntington Community Primary School is committed to ensuring that any form of harassment is dealt with both sensitively and speedily.
- 4.2. We aim to ensure that by demonstrating our commitment through adoption of this policy that any employee who feels that they are being bullied or harassed will feel safe to report the situation without fear of criticism or victimisation.
- 4.3. The Headteacher and other managers may at times be required to make unpopular decisions, give difficult messages or instructions that may not be welcomed by all employees or with which they may not agree. This is not harassment or bullying. In all circumstances the headteacher or other manager will communicate in a sensitive and appropriate manner.
- 4.4. We are committed to dealing with incidences of bullying or harassment sensitively and, where possible, in accordance with the wishes of the person who feels bullied or harassed.
- 4.5. It is recognised that complaints of bullying or harassment by a manager or the Headteacher involve particular sensitivities and challenges for both the employee who feels bullied and the manager against whom the allegation has been made.
- 4.6. All employees, including managers, have a personal responsibility not to harass or bully other members of staff, or to condone harassment or bullying by others. Employees should be aware that they could be personally liable at law if they harass anyone at work.
- 4.7. Formal action may be taken under the disciplinary procedure against any employee who has been found to have bullied or harassed any of their colleagues.

- 4.8. Equally, if a complaint is proven to be malicious, disciplinary action may be taken against the complainant.
- 4.9. It is entirely entirely feasible that following full and fair investigation, that a judgement of 'inconclusive' may preside, for which no further action will be taken of either party.

## **5. Definitions**

- 5.1. Harassment is unwanted conduct affecting the dignity of any staff member in the workplace and is related to one or more of the defined protected characteristics. It may be related to age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnic origin, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation, and any other personal characteristic of the individual, and may be persistent or an isolated incident. The key is that the actions or comments are viewed as demeaning and unacceptable to the recipient. It may be a one off incident or a more systematic pattern of behaviour.
- 5.2. Bullying may be characterised as offensive, intimidating or malicious behaviour which occurs on a regular and persistent basis; or as a one-off, which serves to undermine the competence, effectiveness, confidence, and integrity of the recipient. The behavior might be intended to undermine, humiliate, denigrate, or injure the person.
- 5.3. Bullying or harassment may be by an individual against an individual or involve groups of people. It may be obvious or it may be insidious and done so with intent.
- 5.4. Examples of bullying/harassment may include:
- Spreading malicious rumours, or insulting someone by word or behaviour
  - Ridiculing or demeaning someone, exclusion or victimisation, unfair treatment
  - Overbearing supervision or other misuse of power or position
  - 'Upward bullying', undermining behaviors or unfair treatment carried out by an individual or group against a more senior member of staff.
  - Unwelcome sexual advances
  - Making threats or comments about job security without foundation
  - Deliberately undermining a worker by overloading and constant criticism or preventing individuals progressing by intentionally blocking promotion or training opportunities.
- 5.5 Any reference to Manager within the Dignity at Work Policy and Procedure will be taken to mean the Chair of Governors where the Headteacher is the subject of the complaint.

## **6. Equality Act 2010**

- 6.1 In accordance with its Public Sector Equality Duty, the Governing Board of Huntington Community Primary School has given due regard to equality considerations in adopting this policy/procedure and is satisfied that its application will not impact adversely on members of staff who have a protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010.

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date Approved by School Staff Panel</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>April 2013</b>	<b>School HR</b>	<b>April 2013</b>
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