



Early Years Anti-Bullying Policy

Policy Statement

At British School of Tenerife, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment in which every child in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) feels valued, respected and protected. We promote the school's core values of kindness, honesty, commitment and respect and encourage children to develop positive relationships from the earliest stages of their education.

In EYFS, children are still developing social, emotional and communication skills. Staff recognise that disagreements, impulsive behaviour, upset and difficulties with sharing or turn-taking are a normal part of child development and do not automatically constitute bullying. However, repeated behaviours intended to hurt, frighten, exclude or upset another child will always be taken seriously and addressed promptly.

This policy should be read alongside the schools:

- Whole School Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality and Inclusion Policies

Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all EYFS children;
- promote kindness, empathy and respectful behaviour;
- help children develop positive social relationships;
- ensure staff respond consistently and appropriately to incidents;
- support children experiencing difficulties with social interaction or emotional regulation;
- work in partnership with parents/carers to promote positive behaviour;
- ensure all children feel secure, valued and included.

Definition of Bullying in EYFS

Bullying is defined as repeated negative behaviour intended to hurt, upset, frighten or exclude another person.

In EYFS, staff carefully consider the developmental age, emotional understanding and communication skills of each child before determining whether behaviour constitutes bullying.

Single incidents of conflict, accidental hurt, disagreements during play or age-appropriate impulsive behaviours are not normally considered bullying. These incidents are addressed through the school's Behaviour Policy and through adult guidance and support.

However, repeated harmful behaviour towards the same child or group of children will be taken seriously.

Examples of Bullying Behaviour in EYFS

Bullying behaviour in Early Years may include:

- repeated hitting, kicking, pushing or grabbing;
- deliberately excluding a child from play;

- repeated unkind comments or teasing;
- intimidating behaviour during play;
- damaging another child's work or belongings;
- controlling games or friendships;
- repeated threats or aggressive behaviour;
- mocking a child's appearance, language, culture or abilities.

Signs a Child May Be Experiencing Bullying

Young children may not always be able to verbally explain concerns. Staff remain vigilant for signs that may indicate distress, including:

- withdrawal from activities or friendships;
- anxiety or clinginess;
- changes in mood or behaviour;
- emotional outbursts;
- reluctance to attend school;
- loss of confidence;
- unexplained injuries;
- regression in behaviour or toileting;
- changes in play patterns;
- appearing isolated during free play.

Preventing Bullying in EYFS

BST promotes a proactive and preventative approach through:

- modelling respectful and caring relationships;
- teaching kindness, empathy and inclusion;
- promoting positive behaviour through praise and encouragement;
- carefully supervised play opportunities;
- use of stories, role play and circle time activities;
- supporting emotional literacy and communication skills;
- helping children learn conflict resolution strategies;
- celebrating diversity, cultures and individual differences;
- ensuring all children feel represented and included;
- close partnership with parents/carers.

Staff create an environment where children feel safe to express worries and seek support from trusted adults.

Procedures for Responding to Concerns

If bullying behaviour is suspected or observed:

1. The incident will be addressed immediately by the member of staff present.
2. Staff will reassure and support all children involved.
3. The incident will be recorded factually and shared with the EYFS Leader and, where appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Team (DST).
4. Staff will investigate patterns of repeated behaviour.
5. Parents/carers of all children involved will be informed when appropriate.
6. Support strategies will be implemented and monitored.

Responses in EYFS focus on:

- teaching appropriate behaviour;

- emotional coaching;
- restorative conversations;
- supported play;
- modelling positive interactions;
- helping children understand feelings and consequences;
- increased supervision where necessary.

Sanctions will always be age-appropriate and proportionate.

Supporting Children

Support for the Child Experiencing Bullying

Staff will:

- listen carefully and reassure the child;
- help the child feel safe and included;
- monitor relationships and play interactions;
- provide opportunities to build confidence and friendships;
- work closely with parents/carers.

Support for the Child Displaying Bullying Behaviour

Staff will:

- help the child understand the impact of their behaviour;
- teach appropriate social and emotional skills;
- support emotional regulation;
- work collaboratively with parents/carers;
- monitor behaviour and provide additional support where needed.

The Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are encouraged to:

- communicate concerns promptly to the class teacher or EYFS Leader;
- work in partnership with the school;
- support the school's values and behaviour expectations;
- encourage respectful and kind behaviour at home.

All concerns raised by parents/carers will be taken seriously and investigated appropriately.

Staff Responsibilities

All EYFS staff are responsible for:

- promoting positive relationships and inclusion;
- modelling respectful behaviour;
- responding promptly to concerns;
- recording incidents appropriately;
- monitoring children's wellbeing;
- maintaining confidentiality where appropriate;
- working collaboratively with families and relevant staff.

Staff receive training and guidance relating to:

- safeguarding;
- behaviour management;
- emotional wellbeing;
- anti-bullying procedures;
- child development and emotional regulation.

Monitoring and Review

The school will monitor incidents and review practice regularly to ensure the effectiveness of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the EYFS Leadership Team and Senior Leadership Team in line with safeguarding and whole-school procedures.

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed every, or more frequently if required by changes in legislation, guidance, or school operational needs.

Written by:	Jenni Garnett		
Agreed Date:	September 2026		
Board of Governors			
	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Academic Director:			
	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Review Date:	September 2027		