

Two Village C of E Primary School



Anti Bullying Policy



Anti - Bullying Policy

Rationale

Bullying at school can have a profound effect on children's lives and can have a lasting effect on them into adulthood. It can undermine their self-esteem and self-confidence and often result in them becoming bullies themselves. The policy on Anti-Bullying has been drawn up within the school's ethos of promoting positive behaviour and giving due consideration to our Christian values.

Definition

Bullying is repeated anti-social behaviour with malicious intent, (physical, verbal, psychological) repeatedly aimed at one or more children which is unacceptable to the victim(s).

Bullying can take many forms but three main types are:

- physical - hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal - name-calling, insulting or racist remarks
- indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding from social groups.
- Cyber: sending nasty or threatening texts, emails by phone, picture/video clip, internet chat rooms or websites

Cyber bullying can be defined as the use of *'Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.'*

Cyber bullying differs from other forms of bullying in that it can take place at any time and can invade previously safe places such as the home. The audience can be very large and reached very quickly.

The perpetrator of cyber bullying may never be in the same physical space as their target and may attempt to remain anonymous.

Some incidents of cyber bullying are quite unintentional as pictures or texts can be sent as a joke without the sender truly understanding the impact of their actions or the speed at which the information can be shared outside the friendship group. Many cyber bullying incidents can themselves act as evidence and it is important that in all settings where there are children, young people and technology, all adults know how to minimise and deal with incidents.

Through observation we recognise that there are times and areas where bullying is more likely to take place. The playground, toilets, and corridors are places where children could be subject to bullying. All staff, teaching and support staff, must be aware of this and are vigilant.

Aims

- To give children a common understanding of what constitutes bullying and that it is unacceptable.
- To give children the understanding and the confidence to say, "No," to incidences of bullying.
- To instil in children the understanding that they will be listened to by all the adults in school.
- To provide the children with an environment in which they will feel safe and secure, particularly in a social setting.
- To give children the strategies to combat bullying.
- To encourage 'victims' to be more self-assertive.
- To give 'bullies' opportunities to modify their behaviour.



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Strategies

Activities which can be used to raise pupil awareness

- The issue of bullying will be brought out into the open.
- Assemblies may be a forum through which the issue of bullying will be raised.
- All parents will be advised on what school feels constitutes bullying - and be brought into school at the earliest possible convenience should their child be involved in bullying or be a victim of bullying.
- The parents of new entrants will be given a copy of the anti-bullying policy.
- Children involved in the School Council will have the opportunities to discuss their own and their class' point of view in any revision of the bullying policy.
- Staff will listen to the victim – provide time in a non-threatening environment.
- Children will be assured that staff will deal with the situation in a sympathetic and sensitive manner.
- Children will be assured that they will be listened to and not dismissed out of hand.
- An incident log is kept where anything of concern is noted. The Headteacher will take any action that is appropriate.
- Parents will be advised and be encouraged to discuss problems with members of the teaching staff and the Headteacher.
- Mid-day assistants will meet with the Deputy Headteacher once every half term to discuss lunch time issues and will have opportunities for training.
- Areas of the curriculum give opportunities in which to tackle the issue of bullying.
- Class 'circle-time' and the school council are also appropriate vehicles through which the topic could be discussed.

Practical Advice

to Share with Pupils:

- If you are bullied tell a member of staff or a parent.
- Try to ignore silly comments or teasing – don't say anything back - walk away.
- Say to people who are bullying you to 'leave me alone please', or 'NO!' or 'GO AWAY'. You must say it loudly and walk away immediately. Practice this in the mirror.
- Stay with friends when playing - you are more likely to be bullied if you are on your own.

for Parents:

- Encourage your child to talk about what has been going on in school, and talk through any minor incidents calmly to ascertain what has happened.
- Inform the school immediately if you feel there may be a bullying problem.
- Encourage your child to tell a teacher if they or any of their friends are experiencing difficulty in or out of school.
- Watch out for signs of stress in your child - headaches, sore stomachs, reluctance to come to school - they can be indications that all is not well.
- Investigate if toys / tuck / money starts to go missing.
- Take an active interest in friendships and out -of-school activities.
- Take an active interest in (monitor) your child's cyber activity including games and mobile phones.



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- Supervise situations where bullying may occur, e.g. walking to and from school.
- Avoid unsupervised exposure to violence on television / videos / computer games. Spend some time discussing the different forms of violence - reality versus fantasy.
- Please do not leave children to 'sort the matter out' themselves. This seldom works and often leads to the matter becoming worse.

How Do We Deal With Bullying?

- We ensure that all perceived incidents are dealt with fairly and consistently.
- All incidents are investigated, recorded, discussed and hopefully resolved, and the children involved supported. We try wherever possible to work in partnership with parents/carers to resolve incidents.
- We investigate the incident to find out what has happened, we listen to the victim, the bully, and any witnesses and record the incident and action taken.
- We support the victim and work with all concerned to resolve the incident.
- We may seek support/advice from outside agencies. e.g. Educational Psychologist, Social, Emotional and mental Health Specialist teacher Team etc.

Incidents of Racial Abuse:

- Any form of racial harassment and abuse will not be tolerated.
- All incidents will be treated seriously, investigated, dealt with and logged by the Headteacher in the 'Racial Incident Log'.
- 'One-off' incidents of racist behaviour will be dealt with in a way which is sensitive to the victim, acknowledging the harm and injustice done, but which also ensures that the offender understands the seriousness of the offence he or she has caused.
- The offender will be given every opportunity to try to repair the relationship with the victim wherever possible.
- Parents or carers of both the victim and the offender will be informed. Parents / carers of the offender will be involved in actions taken to modify the child's future behaviour and attitudes.
- All other forms of harassment and abuse will also be logged and we will respond rigorously to any such incidents, including those relating to size, gender, or sexuality.

Monitoring

A check on the number of reported incidents is made and reported to Governors half termly.

The Deputy Headteacher/Headteacher will raise the issue each term in the school council and take note of the children's responses.

Review

Policy approved: 7th October 2019

Policy to be reviewed 2 yearly.

Next review October 2021