

Policy on Anti-Bullying

1 Introduction

- 1.1 It is a government requirement that all schools have an anti-bullying policy. In 2003, Ofsted published Bullying: Effective Action in Secondary Schools. This was followed by DfES guidance for schools under two headings: Don't Suffer in Silence and Bullying – A Charter for Action. This policy reflects this guidance.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.
- 2.2 We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.
- 2.3 This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- 2.4 We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

A Definition of Bullying

(Based DCSF 0064/2000)

- **Deliberately and repeatedly hurting someone (emotionally or physically)**
- **Stealing from a person or damaging their belongings**
- **Name calling and making insulting comments (Directly or indirectly, including electronically)**
- **Making someone feel vulnerable with a 'dirty look' or stare.**
- **Exclusion/isolation from a social group**
- **Spreading stories, lies or rumours about someone**
- **Threatening to do any of the above or 'blackmailing'**

3 The role of governors

- 3.1 The governing body supports the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- 3.2 The governing body and the Local Authority monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors termly about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

4 The role of the headteacher

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.
- 4.2 The headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the headteacher may decide to use an assembly as the forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished. If this has little impact then the school may use the Restorative Justice strategy. Restorative justice is when all the children involved in the situation are given a chance to sit together and air their opinions through safe mediation and make constructive agreements about future behaviour.

- 4.3 The headteacher ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- 4.4 The headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

5 The role of the teacher and support staff

- 5.1 All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.
- 5.2 Teachers keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class, and that they are aware of in the school. If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will either investigate it themselves or refer it to the headteacher. Teachers and support staff do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the headteacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.
- 5.3 When any bullying has taken place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim, and punishment for the offender. Time is spent talking to the child who has done the bullying, explaining to them why their action was wrong and how they should change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying, we inform the headteacher and the special needs coordinator. The Headteacher uses the '**Restorative Justice**' technique to work with both the victim and the perpetrator/s. In more extreme cases, e.g. where these initial discussions have proved ineffective, the headteacher may contact external support agencies.
- 5.4 Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. They use drama, role-play, stories etc., within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere.

6 The role of parents

- 6.1 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 their child's class teacher immediately. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the headteacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed in the school Prospectus.
- 6.2 Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

7 The role of pupils

- 7.1 Pupils are encouraged to tell anybody they trust if they are being bullied, and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know.
- 7.2 Pupils are invited to tell us their views about a range of school issues, including bullying, in the annual pupil questionnaire.
- 7.3 Our School Council has developed its own anti-bullying code (attached).

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1 This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the headteacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.
- 8.2 The anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the headteacher. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.
- 8.3 This policy will be reviewed annually, normally during anti-bullying week (November).

Signed: J Barber

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