

Otterham CP School

Anti-Bullying Policy

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell somebody and know that all incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What is Bullying

Bullying is a persistent wilful conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else.

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person.

Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:-

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racial racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging or calls. Misuse of associated i.e. camera and video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying

Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.

All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying arises.

As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:-

- Is frightened of walking to and from school
- Doesn't want to go on the school bus
- Begs to be driven to school
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning

- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or go missing
- Asks for money or starts stealing money
- Has dinner or other monies continually lost
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous or jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures

- All staff to be made aware of any incident including emotional bullying
- In cases of serious bullying the incidents will be recorded by staff
- In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary and appropriate the police will be consulted
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) to change their behaviour
- In repeated incidents the bully will be interviewed by the Headteacher. The unacceptable nature of the behaviour and the consequences of further repetition will be made clear.

Preventing Bullying

Our daily curriculum and interaction with all children can help prevent bullying.

- Co-operative work can be praised - classroom, PE, games responsibilities
- Non-aggressive behaviour can be praised
- Helping others can be praised

- Language and communication skills can give confidence
- A positive, responsive and caring approach can be praised
- Personal and social education can raise awareness of other's feelings.

Teachers will aim to prevent situations where bullying may occur using a clear, consistent approach:-

- Clear rules about what is acceptable and what is not.
- Consistent vigilance in the playground
- Be watchful of relationships
- Intervene immediately a situation occurs or may occur

Bullies need help to show them that they can satisfy their needs through working with others rather than confrontational or competitive ways.

Outcomes

- In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.