

# ANTI - BULLYING POLICY

## Statement

This Policy reflects the aims of the School in providing and maintaining a safe, secure and happy environment for all children and staff. It is our intention to promote a whole school approach where bullying is concerned, to ensure effective learning and teaching takes place. We aim to prevent any form of bullying and to deal with any incidents quickly and effectively.

## Aims

- To reflect the aims of the school in providing and maintaining a safe, secure and happy environment for all staff and children
- To prevent bullying in any form and to have a consistent approach when dealing with incidents of bullying
- To ensure all members of the school community are aware of this policy. Bullying will be dealt with immediately – but it is better prevented than cured.

## What is Bullying?

**Repeated behaviour** which is inflicted by one child or a group

- Intending to hurt, frighten or intimidate another person
- Behaviour in any type of relationship involving some form of hurtful abuse of power
- Aggressive behaviour, deliberately intended to cause hurt to another individual

( It is not bullying when two children of approximately the same age and strength have the occasional fight or quarrel.)

## **We will seek to prevent bullying through**

### **Pastoral Provision**

- Through creating an open and telling environment where everyone in the school community is aware of procedures
- Raising the awareness of all members of the school community to the signs of bullying
- Ensuring pupils know that staff will investigate incidents of bullying
- Older children act as ‘Buddies’ in the playground helping to ensure that children are happy and safe.

## **Classroom Management**

- Using positive classroom management strategies which aim to build good relationships between pupils i.e. circle time, PDMU etc

## **Curriculum**

- Using opportunities within the curriculum to discuss bullying and relationship issues

## **Individual Responsibilities**

The issue of bullying involves all members of the school community and to that end all individuals must recognize their roles and responsibilities.

## **Board of Governors with Senior Management should**

- Provide a safe environment for all children
- Promote ethos of respect for the individual
- Encourage pupils to TELL

## **Staff should**

- Encourage pupils to tell if they are being bullied or if another pupil is being bullied
- Take all reports of bullying seriously
- Log all incidents
- Give feedback to all concerned
- Participate in regular training
- Celebrate good behaviour

## **Pupils should**

- Report all incidents of bullying
- Act in a respectful and supportive manner to all pupils
- Promote positive behaviour as set out in that policy

## **Remember – if you feel you are being bullied...**

1. Most bullies are cowards and only do it to feel big.
2. If YOU are being bullied it is not YOUR fault.
3. Don't be silent. Tell your teacher, your parent or an adult you trust.
4. Don't react. Try not to show you are upset. Walk away.
5. Find a friend – there's safety in numbers.
6. Avoid danger zones. Don't be alone in a place where a bully is likely to be.
7. Keep a note or diary of what is happening

## **Parents should**

- Stress to children the importance of social behaviour
- Report any concerns to the school
- Actively support the anti-bullying policy and allow the school time to follow the procedures in place
- Stress to children that retaliation is not helpful

***Remember to look for these signs.*** Does your child...

1. Not want to come to school.
2. Have damaged or lost clothing / possessions.
3. Ask for extra money.
4. Seem quieter and withdrawn [not themselves].
5. Have unexplained bruises.
6. Not seem to be eating properly.
7. Have interrupted sleep.
8. Seem to be crying more.

## **Procedures for dealing with incidents of bullying behaviour.**

- Since we take the problem of bullying very seriously, any reported incidents will be dealt with accordingly.
- The problem may be reported by a child or parent to a teacher or supervisor who will initially deal with the situation. The information will be passed on to the designated teacher – Miss Claire Carson.
- The designated teacher will investigate the incident thoroughly including separate discussions with both the victim and bully. All relevant details will be recorded and the outcome of discussions reported to parents.
- The teacher(s) of the children concerned will also be made aware of what has happened.
- We will ensure that another child or small group of children befriends and supports the child during the school day.
- The sanctions taken against the pupil who bullies will depend on the seriousness of the case, as set out in the policy on Positive Behaviour. Sanctions will include the loss of any privileges or position of responsibility he/she holds in school. Bullies will be made aware that their behaviour will be closely monitored until staff are satisfied that the problem has stopped.
- The school may seek, if deemed necessary, the advice and support of the Educational Welfare Officer and Educational Psychologist through the Special Needs Code of Practice.