

Policy for Anti Bullying



Introduction

This document was reviewed and approved by governing body during the autumn term 2016

This policy will be reviewed in the autumn term 2018

A schedule for the review of this, and all other policy documents is set out in the school's cycle of policy reviews.

School Aims

We aim to:

- ◆ Provide a safe, stimulating and caring environment where each pupil is valued as an individual and can develop to his/her full potential emotionally and intellectually.
- ◆ Develop confident, disciplined and enquiring learners, able to make informed choices.
- ◆ Foster a love of learning.
- ◆ Raise levels of attainment for each pupil, enabling them to achieve their personal best.
- ◆ To promote good behaviour based on school and class rules.
- ◆ Foster considerate and positive relationships in school and the local community.
- ◆ Develop self-esteem and personal responsibility, linked to respect for the needs and feelings of others.
- ◆ Respect and value other cultures and religions
- ◆ Promote a thoughtful, caring attitude towards the immediate and wider environment.

Safeguarding Statement

At Tweedmouth Prior Park First School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Tweedmouth Prior Park First School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Statement of Intent

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 and know that 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 a member of staff.

What is bullying? (taken from DFE latest guidance October 2014)

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

Bullying can be:

- *Emotional*-being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
- *Physical*- pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- *Racist*-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
- *Electronic* – known as ‘cyberbullying’; for example via computers, mobile phones.

Why is it important for school to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying and everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Adults or pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. As a school have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to any issues of bullying.

Prevention

The systems in school encourage appropriate behaviour and this is supported in our Personal Social Health Citizenship Education (PSHCE). In addition to this, pupils write class rules to behave by. Anti-bullying procedures are also in place to prevent, detect and manage such behaviour effectively.

The Role of Governors

The Governing Body supports Mrs Molloy (Head Teacher) and senior management in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The Governing Body will not condone any bullying in school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately. The Governing Body monitors any incidents of bullying that do occur and regularly reviews the effectiveness of this policy. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

Objectives of this Policy

The key objectives of this anti-bullying policy are to ensure:

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents will have an understanding of what bullying is;
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported;
- All pupils and parents will know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises;
- That as a school, we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying in any shape or form is not tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A pupil may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Staff in school should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a pupil:

- Is frightened of making the journey to or from school;
- Changes their usual routine;
- Is unwilling to come to school (school phobic);
- Begins to truant;
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence;
- Starts stammering;

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- Attempts or threatens suicide
- Absconds from school/ educational visit;
- Frequently reports they feel ill (where no known cause of illness is known or detected);
- Begins to do poorly in school work;
- Comes to school with clothes torn or books damaged;
- Has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing';
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable;
- Is bullying other children or siblings;
- Stops eating;
- Is frightened when questioned to say what's wrong;
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above.

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

Procedures

In this school, pupils will be encouraged to report/discuss any behaviour they are not happy with. Initially the class teacher will try to deal with any incident in a supportive low key manner to avoid further distress. This may be:

- Face to face talks;
- Taken as a theme in a class PSHCE discussion if the bullied child is more at ease with this.

Should other incidents occur, the following procedure will be used progressively to address the problem:

1. Formal, noted talk with the children concerned (parents notified verbally to allow any queries to be raised).
2. Children spoken to by Nursery/ Foundation/ Key Stage leader or the Head Teacher and parents of the children involved asked to attend a formal meeting at school.
3. Formal involvement and possible exclusion of the perpetrator.
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will always be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
5. Victim/s of bullying will be supported.
6. Attempts will be made to help the perpetrator/s change their behaviour.

Please refer to School's Anti-bullying Protocol.

Desired outcomes of such action:

1. The bully / bullies will be asked to genuinely apologise. Additional consequences may take place.
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
3. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.



Tweedmouth Prior Park First School ANTI-BULLYING PROTOCOL

