



## Anti-Bullying Policy (2008)

### **Rationale behind the policy:**

Bullying is present to a greater or lesser extent in all institutions. **All** members of the school community deserve the right to feel valued, equal and respected and be able to come to school without fear. Bullying has a serious effect on a pupil's self esteem, emotional and mental health, which in turn prevents them from developing their full potential and can seriously affect their life chances. Our school's definition of bullying is:

***Bullying can be defined as an abuse of power by one or more people through repeated hurtful or aggressive behaviour with the intention to cause emotional or physical harm to another person.***

It can be:

**Physical** – hitting, kicking, stealing or hiding belongings, sexual assault.

**Verbal** – name calling, insults, offensive or sexual remarks, threatening language.

**Relational** – social exclusion, spreading rumours or stories, graffiti, defacing property, displaying literature or materials of a racist, sexist or pornographic nature

**Indirect.** defacing property, displaying literature or materials of a racist, sexist or pornographic nature.

**Cyberbullying** can include offensive or abusive text or Internet messages.

**Bullying** can be racist, homophobic or sexual in nature.

**Bullying**, in any form, will not be tolerated at our school. This includes any member of the school community (staff, students, parents or governors. As a "listening and telling" school we are committed to the creation of positive and safe learning environments for all.

### **Purpose of the policy:**

- To promote the schools aims and values.
- To develop a positive and safe learning environment in which bullying will not be tolerated.
- To promote inclusion, mutual respect, self-esteem and self worth in order to meet the physical, emotional and mental health needs of all members of the school community.
- To raise the standards of behaviour and levels of achievement of all.

### **Guidelines for implementing policy:**

- The policy will be monitored and evaluated annually and will involve all stakeholders.
- There needs to be recognition that anyone can be a bully or victim and that bullying can take many forms.
- It is recognised that the Head teacher and Governing Body have a statutory responsibility for school behaviour and discipline, but that all members of the school community accept collective responsibility for the successful implementation of this policy
- Students are encouraged to report all incidents of bullying, whether they are victims or bystanders.
- All staff will respond to student, staff or parental concerns seriously and support the agreed procedures.

## **Our proactive strategies include:**

- We are a listening and telling school. This is the message that will be promoted at all times and with all audiences. There is an agreed collective responsibility to address any incidents of bullying observed.
- A copy of the school policy will be sent home. This will be discussed in class with all pupils so they understand the school's policy of zero tolerance of bullying and their role in making it a success. A pupils' version will be available in the classrooms.
- Annually (during National Anti Bullying week) the issue of bullying will be raised in order to maintain awareness of the issue through school assemblies and prominent pictorial displays and posters.
- Every opportunity to promote whole school initiatives such as anti-bullying week (November each year), theatre productions and external speakers will be taken.

Parents and the community will be encouraged to actively support the policy at parents' evenings by signing the home-school agreement and promoting the Schools Behaviour Policy and Charter of Children's Rights.

- The School Council will include bullying as a regular agenda item.
- The Governing body and SLT will monitor bullying via staff meetings, auditing profomas from pupils and parents and an annual questionnaire on bullying and school practice for students to complete.
- Bullying will be addressed within the PSHE and Citizenship Curriculum particularly through Circle Time and the Taking Care and SEAL materials.
- All staff will receive training on the identification, prevention and management of bullying. Procedures for dealing with a bullying incident will be included in the staff handbook.

## **Our Reactive strategies**

- In the event of a bullying incident the same procedures will be followed as for all other incidents of poor behaviour (see School Behaviour policy.) Staff will gather evidence and consult with the Deputy Head or Head teacher.
- In all cases details of the incident and action taken will be recorded. Parents of both the victim and bully will be kept fully involved.
- Our prime concern will be the support and protection of the victim. Action will continue until the issue is satisfactorily resolved and the bullying ceases. The actions will be reviewed and modified in light of circumstances and if the bullying continues.
- Strategies to support victims will involve staff and students. Approaches such as circle of friends, no blame approach, buddying and mentoring etc will be considered.
- If it is a serious incident temporary or permanent exclusion will be considered after a full review of the facts.
- Bullying incidents will be logged and monitored on a termly basis by the Head, or named member of the SLT. This information will be given to the Governing body each term as part of the Head's Report.
- A Governor will be nominated to have responsibility for maintaining an overview of behavioural and bullying issues.

***Policy written September 2008***

***To be reviewed October 2009***

**Signed:**

**Chair Of Governors**