



Park Primary School

Anti-bullying Policy



PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL Anti-bullying Policy



Introduction

At Park Primary School we define bullying as ‘any action taken by one or more individuals, with the deliberate intention of hurting another, either physically or emotionally. Victims find it hard to defend themselves against such behaviour as it is repeated, often over a period of time.’

Examples of bullying include:

Physical aggression such as hitting, kicking, taking or damaging possessions.

Verbal aggression, such as name-calling, insulting, making offensive remarks. This can often link to individual characteristics of the victim, such as their ethnic origin, nationality, colour, size etc.

Indirect such as spreading nasty stories and rumours, exclusion from social groups and sending malicious e-mail, text messages and using the internet (Cyber bullying)

Bullying may occur in or outside lesson time, either near the school or on the children’s journey to or from school and in the home through social media and gaming devices.

When talking to the children, we use the mnemonic STOP meaning – “several times on purpose” - to reinforce the difference between bullying and an isolated incident.

Equal Opportunities

The school accepts that bullying can occur in many forms and pupils may be targeted on the grounds of their gender, ethnicity or disability because they represent a group in society. This form of bullying is therefore likely to hurt not only the victim, but other pupils in the same group. Park Primary will not tolerate bullying of any kind. A record will be kept of any incidents of a racial nature.

Aims and objectives

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.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all children can learn without anxiety.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

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.

We aim to nurture the values of responsibility, duty and respect both for oneself and others.

Responsibilities

We aim to minimise opportunities for bullying through consistent use of our behaviour policy. We also aim to identify any problem times and areas and increase supervision at these times. Planned work across the curriculum involves pupils in activities designed to promote positive relationships and co-operative behaviour. The school’s policy on bullying is reinforced through the PHSE /SEAL curriculum with an annual Anti-Bullying week in November each year

We use our Teaching Assistants and our Family Partnership Worker to work with both victims and bullies to build self-esteem.

The role of governors

The governing body supports the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the Headteacher and asks him to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

The role of the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher to implement the school Anti-Bullying policy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher ensures that all staff are aware of the following document:-Wirral Anti-Bullying Guidance Document.

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.

The role of teaching and non-teaching staff

As part of their role of pastoral care, all staff are responsible for implementing the anti-bullying policy and should ensure that they are familiar with all procedures.

Teachers should aim to create a climate of trust where pupils feel safe and secure, setting high standards of behaviour and encouraging pupils to demonstrate respect and tolerance for each other. By praising, rewarding and celebrating success, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying from occurring.

If staff witness an incident of bullying they should deal with the matter promptly. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying.

Supporting the victim

- We give the victim an immediate opportunity to talk about the experience with their class teacher or another adult if they choose
- We inform the victim's parent(s) / guardian(s)
- We offer continuing support and tell the child how to get immediate help should the bullying happen again.

Dealing with the bully

We spend time talking to the child who has bullied. We explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. As well as working with any bully and their parents to try to stop them from bullying, we also take the following disciplinary steps to prevent any more bullying.

- Officially warn bully to stop bullying, being very specific about what they are not to do.
- Inform the bully's parent(s) / guardian(s).
- Keep bully in at playtime and lunchtime for a period to be arranged.
- If the bullying carries on then the Headteacher/Deputy headteacher will look at other options available to them such as temporary internal exclusion.

Staff who witness, or are made aware of, an incident of bullying should inform the classteacher initially who will make a note of it. Where appropriate such records may follow the child upon transfer to the secondary school.

The six key points are:

- Never ignore suspected bullying
- Don't make premature assumptions
- Listen carefully to all accounts
- Adopt a problem solving approach which moves pupils from justifying themselves
- Follow up incidents repeatedly, checking that the bullying has not resumed.
- Keep a record of the incidents that have occurred in order to establish whether a pattern is emerging.

If a child is repeatedly involved in incidents of bullying, staff should involve the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher and the child's parents. In extreme cases, where initial discussions have proven ineffective the Headteacher may involve external agencies such as the school's Educational Psychologist, Bully busters or the school's FSW.

Where a parent has made an allegation of bullying, staff need to

- Recognise that the parent may be angry or upset
- Keep an open mind and not make pre-judgements based on previous experiences
- Remain calm and understanding
- Make clear that the school does care and something will be done
- Explain the school policy and ensure procedures are followed
- Return to the parent promptly with the outcome of the investigation and the action taken.

Any incident of bullying reported to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher is recorded in the Behaviour File. Incidents which occur at lunchtimes will be dealt with in accordance to the procedures in this policy and reported to the classteacher.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

The role of parents

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school community.

Parents' views on the policy will be sought during the evaluation process and parents will be kept informed of changes to school policy.

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied should contact the child's teacher immediately. Details of the incident will be investigated promptly and parents will be informed of the outcome.

The role of pupils

At Park Primary school we do not tolerate bullying behaviour. Pupils who witness an incident of bullying should tell an adult straight away. They should be prepared to give details about who was involved so that the adult can investigate matters further. The adult can be a teacher, teaching assistant, midday assistant or a parent.

The message we give to our children is :‘If you think you are being bullied, tell somebody straight away. You can tell any grown-up you trust. That person will help the behaviour to stop.’

Implementation

A full copy of the Anti-Bullying policy is available on our website and a hard copy can be obtained from the School office.

The school will continue to raise awareness of the anti-bullying policy and procedures using a range of strategies. These include planned assemblies which may involve outside speakers such as the community police, PHSE lessons and SEAL lessons specifically focussed on aspects of anti-bullying, related displays and posters and as agenda items at staff and school council meetings.

Every year, during ‘Anti-Bullying’ week ‘Stopping Bullies’ will be the theme for our assemblies. At other times if the Headteacher deems it necessary he may use assemblies as a forum to remind the children about how wrong bullying is.

Monitoring and evaluation

This anti-bullying policy is the governors’ responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the Pupil File and by discussion with the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. Where appropriate, governors may analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in bullying incidents.

Reviewed Annually