



SHERBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

At Sherborne Primary School we acknowledge that bullying does happen from time to time. Indeed, it would be unrealistic to claim that it does not.

However, it is our aim to:

- Ensure that all children and adults within the school have a common understanding of what bullying is
- Minimise all forms of bullying
- Communicate clearly to children and parents the school's strong response
- Stress that the whole school community acts together on this issue
- Continually work to maintain a warm and harmonious atmosphere within the school

DEFINITION

Bullying is behaviour that is intended to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else and is repeated and sustained over a period of time. It damages individual children.

Bullying can include:

- Name calling
- Malicious gossip/rumours
- Teasing
- Intimidation or threatening behaviour
- Violence and assault
- Hitting, punching, jostling, pinching and kicking
- Saying or writing nasty things including swearing
- Making someone feel uncomfortable or scared
- Making fun or ridiculing
- Making reference to someone's skin or hair colour, race or size
- Cyber bullying

Symptoms of bullying

Early signs that a child is being bullied could be:

- The child becoming withdrawn

- A deterioration in the child's work
- Erratic attendance or spurious illness
- Persistently arriving late at school
- General unhappiness or anxiety
- The child wanting to remain with adults
- Sudden outbursts not in common with the child's normal behaviour

Physical symptoms could include headaches, stomach aches, fainting, fits, vomiting or hyperventilation. Victims can become depressed and this can continue into their adult lives.

In dealing with bullying we aim to:

- Raise awareness about bullying and the school's anti-bullying policy
- Increase understanding for victims
- Teach pupils about their relationships with others through the curriculum (SEAL / Rainbow / Circle Time) – training is given to Year 5 & 6 pupils who are Playtime Pals to look out for aspects of bullying on the playground

Strategies to combat bullying

We aim to include the following in our teaching:

- Befriending
- Circle of friends
- Support groups
- Mediation by adults
- Mediation by peer
- Social Skills groups
- Nurture groups

Dealing with bullying incidents

In dealing with bullying incidents, we will observe five key points.

- We will not ignore bullying.
- Staff should not make premature assumptions.
- All accounts of the incidents should be listened to fairly.

•We will make every effort to adopt a problem-solving approach which encourages pupils to find solutions rather than simply justify themselves.

•We will follow up to check bullying has not resumed.

Proactive measures in place to reduce incidents of bullying

- Regular Circle Time
- Bullying discussed in the SEAL curriculum
- Worry boxes in each classroom
- Anti-bullying / friendship weeks
- Advise parents of incidents at an early stage
- Follow up incidents to ensure that the bullying has not resumed
- A high awareness of bullying

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Single Equality Policy. The general equality duty requires that, in the exercise of their functions, schools must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. This school endeavours to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations or all

This policy was adopted by the Governing Body on 12th May 2014

Signed Chair of Governors

Date 12th May 2014