

Bubwith Community Primary School



Anti – Bullying Policy

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Introduction

At Bubwith Community Primary School, 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 in our school.

Through this policy we aim to ensure that:

- All pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff and governors have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff and governors know what the school's policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff and governors know that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the intentional, repetitive or persistent use of aggression/tactics with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim and involves an imbalance of power.

At Bubwith School, we share the following definitions of bullying with our children:

- **Physical bullying** is when you mean to hurt someone by using your hands, feet or other objects.
- **Rule: Keep your hands, feet and other objects to yourself**
The consequence of breaking this rule (in line with our Rewards and Sanctions Policy) is a Time Out.
- **Verbal bullying** is when you mean to say something that will make another person feel upset.
- **Indirect/emotional bullying** is when you talk about someone behind their back or write something about them that isn't appropriate and say things that aren't very nice about them. It can also be when you ignore that person completely or when you stop them from joining in from games etc.
- **Cyber bullying** is when you mean to hurt someone by using a form of technology.

Each teacher shares and reviews these definitions with his or her class at an appropriate level. We are aware that bullying may take other forms and members of staff are aware of this.

Responding to bullying

At Bubwith School, we believe that every individual has a responsibility to help prevent bullying. If an incident of bullying is experienced or witnessed by a child or an adult at school, it should be reported to a member of staff straight away. If a child confides in an adult, the adult should then report the incident to the class teacher straight away.

To make sure that the children in our school know what to do if they experience or witness an incident of bullying, we teach them four steps:

SEE IT HEAR IT FEEL IT

TELL IT

TALK IT

SORT IT

These steps are discussed with the children and displayed, as reminders, around school.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. If an adult observes any of the signs which are listed in Appendix 1 concerning a child, this should be reported to a teacher who will then monitor and where appropriate, investigate. However, we are also aware that these may indicate other problems.

See Appendix 1 for signs of behaviour which give cause for concern.

Procedures to take if bullying occurs

1. Report bullying incidents to a member of staff who will then report to the class teacher.
2. Where appropriate, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
3. When appropriate, parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped as quickly as possible.
5. An attempt will be made to help the victim deal with the problem and appropriate support given.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other 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.
4. Should a serious incident occur, it will be dealt with at a senior level.

Prevention

We use various methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these include:

- Writing and displaying posters which display the definitions and consequences of bullying.
- Writing and displaying posters which display the steps to take if bullying occurs.
- Having circle times where children can discuss bullying.
- PSHE lessons with planned opportunities to cover issues related to bullying.
- Taking part in anti-bullying week.
- Involving children in art work, stories, poems, songs about bullying.

Help Organisations:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	020 7354 8321
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

Appendix 1 Signs and symptoms which *may* indicate that a child is being bullied:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Doesn't want to go on the school bus
- Begs to be driven to school
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Begins truant
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Comes home starving (lunch has been stolen)
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber message is received