

# Bullying: Prevention



St Mary's Church of England Primary School  
Established 1845

## **BULLYING MAY BE DEFINED AS BEHAVIOUR THAT IS:**

- Deliberately hurtful and painful, and that which makes another person feel uncomfortable, distressed or threatened, and powerless to defend themselves.
- Persistent and unprovoked and repeated over time.
- Difficult for victims to defend themselves against.
- An abuse of power.

It can take place between children, between children and staff, between staff and parents or between staff; by individuals or groups, face-to-face, indirectly or using a range of cyber-bullying methods.

## **Bullying can take any of the following forms:**

- **EMOTIONAL BULLYING:** Excluding, tormenting, hiding belongings, being unfriendly, using threatening behaviour, giving someone the 'silent treatment', pulling faces, ignoring, spreading nasty stories about someone, making someone the subject of malicious rumours, deliberate damage or taking of someone else's property without permission, for example sweets, pens, pencils or money.
- **VERBAL BULLYING:** Name calling, teasing, insulting, using nicknames, spreading rumours, mockery, sarcasm, offensive remarks, taunting or threatening; picking on someone who is different, perhaps overweight, small, tall, of a different religion, or doesn't wear trendy clothes, or is not allowed to do things after school.
- **PHYSICAL BULLYING:** Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, pinching, tripping, spitting, or some other form of physical violence.
- **EXTORTION BULLYING:** Demanding money or goods with threats.

- **RACIST BULLYING:** Verbal abuse by name calling, racial taunts, racist jokes and offensive mimicry, racist gestures, physical threats and attitudes.
- **SEXUAL BULLYING:** Abusive name calling of a sexual nature, looks and comments about appearance or attractiveness.
- **HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING:** Fear, victimization or disruption as a result of sexual orientation; homophobic language should be totally unacceptable.
- **BULLYING OF CHILDREN WITH SEN AND/OR DISABILITIES:** Children with SEN and disabilities can experience bullying both directly and indirectly about their specific difficulties or disability.
- **CYBERBULLYING:** All areas of internet, email and chat room misuse, mobile threats via text messaging and calls, misuse of associated technology e.g. camera and video facilities including those on mobile phones.

**If there is any reason to suppose that bullying has occurred, despite the promotion of the values promoted by the School, the following steps will be taken:**

- Discussion will be held with all concerned: the children, staff and parents, to discover the facts of the case and to determine the best course of action.
- Children involved will receive support as necessary, and strategies will be worked out with the parents to counter any further problems.
- The children and their parents will be made fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and if appropriate, advised as to their future conduct.
- If it is thought to be appropriate, all parties involved will be brought together under supervision and encouraged to discuss what has happened.

**While it is very important that children (and their parents) should understand that bullying will not be tolerated, it is equally important that they know exactly what is meant by the term, since actions that they consider normal may not be so to another child. To that end, the following actions will be taken and children:**

- Should learn, through the curriculum, that prejudice of any form is hurtful and dangerous.
- Should learn tolerance and how to value and appreciate the positive contribution different people can make to their peer group/school/society.
- Should understand that causing distress to another pupil, whether in the playground, on the internet or elsewhere, is totally unacceptable.
- Should be assured that any such problems that they are having will be dealt with sensitively.

**In addition, parents will:**

- Be made well aware of the policies and procedures being applied.
- Be encouraged to contact the School as soon as they suspect that a problem exists.
- Be fully involved in all subsequent discussion and action.

**And the School will:**

- Guarantee that appropriate action be taken promptly and effectively.
- Fully inform all concerned as to actions being taken.
- Keep full records of all incidents.
- Review policies in this respect on a regular basis and not less frequently than every two years.

**Ref. Department for Education Guidance:  
'Preventing and Tackling Bullying'**

Date Implemented: 1st January 2013  
 Approved by: Madeleine Spinks Chair of Governors

Person Responsible: Peter Kyles Principal

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