

Dove Bank Primary School

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



Approved by Mr P Laws on behalf of the Governing Body

Signed: Mr P Laws

Date 24th March 2017

DOVE BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement of Intent

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 at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

What is Bullying (DfE 2010 – *Recognising the Signs of Bullying*)

'Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific cases.'

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- 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 (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

Prevention

The School will take every opportunity to demonstrate to pupils, through the curriculum (PSHE), daily interactions with pupils, reinforcement of the school's playground and class charters and specific bullying assemblies, that it is totally opposed to bullying. This includes cyber bullying (see E-Safety and Behaviour Policies) The School engages relevant external providers to share Anti-Bullying dramas to support the school in this aim.

Procedures

Staff will always take positive action where they suspect bullying may be happening, and will implement this policy where cyber bullying has been alleged to have taken place outside of school hours as well as within the school day.

Pupils will always be encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to a teacher or another adult at school. The use of playground buddies is another way of children reporting bullying incidents.

The School will ensure that all staff, pupils and parents are aware of the school's anti-bullying policy.

Staff consistently praise and encourage all pupils when they show kindness and consideration to others.

Dealing with Bullying Incidents:

Any incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and dealt with as quickly as possible always working closely with the parents.

Staff will do all they can to support the victims of bullying and make it clear to the bully that this behaviour is not acceptable.

- In dealing with bullying, school staff will: not make premature assumptions
- Listen to all accounts of the incidents
- Adopt a problem-solving approach that encourages pupils to find solutions rather than simply justify themselves
- Make regular follow-up checks to ensure that the bullying has not resumed

What happens where a child is bullied:

Staff who receive a report of a bullying incident from a pupils will:

- Listen to the pupil's account of the incident
- Reassure the pupil that reporting the bullying incident was the right thing to do
- Make it clear to the pupil that he or she is not necessarily to blame for what has happened
- Explain that the pupil should report any further incidents to a teacher or other member of staff immediately
- Ensure that they have all the details of each incident in order that the appropriate action can be taken
- Discuss the matter with parents to agree ongoing strategies

Advice to Pupils:

The school will advise pupils who are caught up in bullying incidents to:

- Stay calm and look as confident as possible
- Be firm and clear, look the bully in the eye and tell them to stop
- Get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- Immediately tell an adult what has happened
- Apply any strategies that their class may have agreed to use

Outcomes

Helping the Bullies to Change:

Staff will spend time to help pupils who have bullied others to change their behaviour.

If a pupil is bullying others staff will:

- Talk to the pupil and explain that bullying is wrong and makes others unhappy
- Discuss with the pupil how to join in with others without bullying
- Give the pupil praise and encouragement when he or she is observed being kind and considerate to others
- Discuss the matter with parents to agree ongoing strategies
- A behaviour contract may be considered

Sanctions for Bullying:

If the preventative measures do not succeed, persistent bullying will be dealt with using the criteria in the school's behaviour policy. A Fixed term or a permanent exclusion will be considered depending on the circumstances surrounding the bullying.

Recording Incidents:

Where appropriate, incidents of bullying and discussions with the pupils involved will be recorded. The Head keeps a record of pupil incidents in a blue Bullying Behaviour Log.

Working with Parents:

The school will ensure that parents are aware of the school's anti-bullying policy and Information guide for Parents and Carers 'No to Bullying'.

The Anti-bullying Policy and Information guide for Parents and Carers is published on the school's website.

Parents and carers will be informed of incidents and involved in discussions. The School will discuss with parents how they can work together to stop the bullying.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored termly by the Head teacher as part of the day to day running of the school and annually by the governing body.

Reviewed: March 2017

Next review – March 2018