

# Anti-Bullying Policy

“Bullying is repeated actions that intend to cause someone else harm or upset”

Bullying and its consequences are a concern to everyone involved with children and young people. The effects of bullying often have far reaching implications on personal, social and health development as well as educational attainment for all concerned.

The profile of bullying and anti bullying work locally and nationally has never been higher. The pressure on schools and local authorities to deliver effective responses is considerable, particularly with the implementation of the Children’s Act 2004 through Every Child Matters, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2002, the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007, the Disability Discrimination Act, the Victims Charter 2006 as well other non statutory guidance such as ‘Safe to Learn’ 2007 and bullying in other settings march 2009

## Definitions of Bullying

Children, young people and adults can instigate bullying. Bullying is harmful to all involved, not just the bullied, and can lead to self doubt, lack of confidence, low self esteem, depression, anxiety, self harm and even suicide.

## A working definition for reporting bullying

Bullying can be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time and involves an imbalance of power, leaving the victim feeling defenceless.

The main types of bullying can be identified as:

- Physical—Kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings
- Verbal—Name calling, taunting, making offensive comments
- Indirect—Excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- Cyber bullying—The use of information and communications technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

It is a legal obligation to report a single incident of racist, homophobic or sexual harassment bullying.

## Policy statement Aims

- To raise awareness of bullying
- To bring about conditions in which bullying is less likely to happen in the future
- To reduce and, if possible, to eradicate instances of all types of bullying
- To clarify the recording and reporting processes

Keeping children and young people safe and healthy, enabling them to enjoy and achieve, providing them with opportunities to make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being are at the heart of the project and approach to anti bullying.

The Project believes that all forms of bullying and harassment are unacceptable and must not be tolerated. The Project will actively and proactively work with all key stakeholders in preventing and managing bullying in schools, other settings and the wider community.