

ASTON ALL SAINTS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-bullying Policy

Date: January 2016

Review Date: January 2017

Aims and Expectations

“The Christian ethos is at the heart of all we do in school and underpins all our aims.” It is our aim that every member of our school community feels valued and respected and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school anti-bullying policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

Aims and Objectives

As a school we believe that bullying is wrong and can potentially damage individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where everyone is happy to be and where successful learning can take place.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person’s responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

Definition

Bullying is an action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally. It is an action which takes place on more than one occasion.

Bullying behaviours can include:

- Verbal eg name calling, making offensive comments
- Physical eg kicking, hitting
- Emotional eg spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours, excluding people from groups
- Cyber eg inappropriate texting/emailing or use of social networking sites
- Written eg ridicule through drawings, writing inappropriate notes etc
- Incitement eg encouraging others to bully
- Extortion eg demands of money or property
- Damage to property eg theft of personal property or damage to clothes and personal property

Some of the reasons for being bullied are as follows:

- Race, religion or culture
- Special Education Needs or disability
- Appearance or health conditions
- Sexual orientation
- Home circumstances and lifestyles including young carers and looked after children.
- Sexist or sexual bullying

Impact of Bullying

Research confirms the destructive effects of bullying on young peoples lives. Some of the effects are:

- Low self esteem and poor self-worth
- Lack of confidence
- Anxiety
- Loss of identity
- Poor school attendance
- Feelings of guilt
- Long term mental health difficulties

Signs of Bullying

- Reluctance to attend school
- Poor school performance
- Behaving out of character
- Missing or damaged belongings

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

The role of governors

The governing body support the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of all school behaviour policies.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school

policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.

The Head Teacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong and that it is unacceptable behaviour in our school. The Head Teacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the headteacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss issues and through the use of story, deepen the children's understanding of why certain behaviours are acceptable. A "child friendly" policy has also been written and is an annual agenda item for the school council.

The Head Teacher ensures that all staff are supported to enable them to deal with all incidents of bullying.

The Head Teacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

The role of all adults employed at our school

Everyone in our school takes all forms of bullying seriously and intervenes to prevent incidents from taking place.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied or upset by another child, following a full investigation of the incident(s), the Head Teacher or class teacher informs the child's parents so that we can work together to solve any problems.

If any cases of bullying or misbehaviour occur, the issue is dealt with immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to all the children involved in the incident; we explain why the action of the child was wrong and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying or upsetting other children, we then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Head Teacher may contact external support agencies. On any occasion where external support is sought, parents are kept fully informed and invited to any review meetings.

All adults in school attempt to support all children to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

The role of children

Should any incident occur, children will be invited to discuss their concerns with an adult in school and with other children involved in any incident.

Children will be made aware if parents are to be informed, either by telephone, a meeting or letter,

Any whole school issues for example, playground behaviour, school Code of Conduct may also be raised at school's council meetings, to enable the children in school to have a voice about policy and practice in school.

As part of the ICT curriculum, the children are taught about internet safety and related topics eg cyber bullying – all such lessons are age appropriate and in line with Rotherham Council guidance

The role of parents

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child’s class teacher immediately; there is always someone available to discuss their concerns. If the class teacher is not available, then the Head Teacher, Deputy Head or key stage one co-ordinator would be happy to listen to their concerns.

School ensures that parents are kept up to date with internet safety issues including the dangers of cyber bullying and in appropriate use of social net working sites. This is through leaflets, letters and where possible meetings/workshops in school.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors’ responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually.

Signed

Date