

Prevention

Within our curriculum, we teach the importance of respecting others and taking responsibility for our own actions. We always discuss issues such as bullying and we learn how to resolve problems without falling out. Every year we organise a Friendship Week to help raise awareness of what bullying is and how to deal with it. During this time, we review our school policies.

Procedure

- All reports of bullying will be investigated by the Class Teacher.
- Serious cases of bullying behaviour will be referred to the Headteacher.
- The Headteacher will investigate the incidents and record them in writing.
- Parents /carers will be told and invited to talk with the Headteacher.
- Parents/carers will be informed of the measures the school intends to take.
- The Class Teacher/Headteacher will monitor each case so it does not happen again.
- Our Family Liaison Officer will provide advice and support to parents/carers if needed.

As a school we are proud that incidents of bullying are rare and that any incidents that occurs are dealt with effectively. We welcome feedback from parents and carers to help us to improve further.

Outcomes

- Class Teachers may look at where children sit in class.
- Teaching staff, teaching assistants and midday supervisors are told about the situation.
- Children may be allocated a “playground buddy” - usually an older child to help them at playtimes.
- Children are encouraged to use the school “Friendship Stop” so they have someone to play with.
- Individual targets may be used to help children socialise.
- Individual support may be provided to children who have been bullied or to children who have bullied others.
- The child being bullied and the bully will take part in a process called restorative justice. This support is led by an adult and aims to help children understand and acknowledge how their words and actions have affected others and decide what steps they could take to put it right.
- Children who bully others may have to miss playtimes or be closely supervised by an adult.
- In severe or persistent cases of bullying, the Headteacher may consider fixed-term exclusion or permanent exclusion.

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to report any incident of bullying. Please work with us to make sure that Gurnard Primary School is a safe and happy place for children to learn.



Preventing and Dealing with Bullying: Information for Parents and Carers

This leaflet is to explain to parents and carers what bullying is and what our school procedures are.

It gives guidance about how to recognise and deal with bullying.



Our commitment

At Gurnard Primary School we are committed to keeping our children safe both inside and outside school. We aim to provide a supportive, caring and safe environment that allows children to learn without fear of being bullied. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If bullying does occur, parents and children should be confident that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

What is bullying?

In our school bullying is defined as targeted and persistent hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional (e.g. hurting people's feelings)
- Physical (e.g. hitting or kicking)
- Verbal (e.g. name calling)
- Cyber (e.g. saying unkind things by text or online)

Bullying is not:

- Teasing between friends without intention to cause hurt.
- Falling out between friends.
- Not wanting to be friends with someone.
- Occasional fighting, arguing or quarrelling between children.



Signs of bullying

At our school, children are encouraged to tell somebody about anything that makes them unhappy. However some children may be scared of telling so it can be difficult to know that something is wrong. Adults and older children should be aware that changes in a child's behaviour may mean they are being bullied.



Children may:

- Be frightened to walk to or from school on their own.
- Not want to go to school.
- Change their route to/from school.
- Begin truanting.
- Become quiet or lacking in confidence.
- Feel ill in the mornings (particularly on school days).
- Cry themselves to sleep or have nightmares.
- Lack concentration or begin doing poorly in school work.
- Come home with clothing or books damaged.
- Have possessions or money "go missing".
- Begin stealing.
- Have unexplained cuts or bruises.
- Become aggressive or bully other children.
- Stop eating.
- Refuse to say what is wrong.
- Not want to play outside.
- Be secretive over their mobile or computer.

These signs or behaviours do not always mean that a child is being bullied but they do mean that it should be considered. Victims of bullies can feel like failures. They can feel stupid, ashamed and embarrassed. Bullying may lead to bed wetting, sleeping difficulties, depression, loneliness or a lack of trust. It is clear that bullying can affect the whole family and should not be ignored in the hope that things will improve.

How people can help:

- If you are worried that your child is being bullied ask him/her if they are.
- Be aware of the signs of bullying.
- Don't agree to keep it a secret.
- Allow your child to talk about their feelings.
- Don't tell your child to hit back.
- Avoid threatening the bullies - it often makes things worse.
- Talk to your child's Class Teacher.

Remember if you are a child at school and you are being bullied or if you are worried about a friend, you can:

- Talk to a member of staff or an adult.
- Speak to a Young Governor or Young Leader.
- Put a message in the school's worry box that is in the library.

STOP
BULLYING
STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.