



# CASTLETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Anti-Bullying Policy

### School Statement

At Castletown Primary School, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly, nurturing and safe environment for all of our children, where they can access an excellent education without the fear of being bullied. Bullying can affect everyone, regardless of age, gender and ethnicity and is an anti-social behaviour which will not be tolerated in our school. We must work together to stamp out bullying in our community in order for our children to access the opportunities available at school. We have a responsibility to our children to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

### What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurting another person repeatedly over a period of time. Bullying can take place in many different forms:

<b>Physical</b>	pushing, hitting, kicking, stealing
<b>Verbal</b>	name calling, teasing, spreading rumours
<b>Emotional</b>	excluding, threatening, tormenting
<b>Racist</b>	graffiti, gestures, taunts
<b>Homophobic</b>	bullying related to sexuality
<b>Sexual</b>	unwanted contact or sexually abusive comments
<b>Online</b>	misuse of mobile phones, camera/video and the internet including emails and chat rooms.

### Statutory duty of schools

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Head teachers have a legal duty to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils.

### Policy objectives

- Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have a clear definition of what constitutes bullying.
- Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should follow the school policy on bullying if an incident is reported.
- All pupils and parents should be aware of the school's view of bullying, including action to be taken against bullies.
- All incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and not tolerated within the school community.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

## **Indicators of bullying**

There are many indications that a child is being bullied which can manifest in a range of signs and symptoms:

- Shows an unwillingness to attend school
- Complains of feeling unwell in the morning
- Begins to truant
- Is afraid to walk to/from school
- Asks to be driven to school
- Changes their usual routine
- Becomes withdrawn or anxious
- Begins to lack confidence
- Starts stammering
- Behaviour changes
- Stops eating
- Becomes aggressive, unreasonable, disruptive
- Bullies other children including siblings
- School work deteriorates
- Comes home with damaged or missing possessions
- Has unexplained physical injuries
- Is afraid to use the internet/mobile phone
- Is vague or afraid to answer any questions related to the points listed above.

Remember bullying is not a single incident but something that happens repeatedly over a period of time.

## **Procedures**

Bullying incidents should be reported to the class teacher or teacher on yard duty and will then be dealt with immediately. In more serious or persistent cases of bullying, the head teacher will be notified and asked to deal with the situation. Parents may be informed and asked to attend a meeting to discuss the incident. If necessary, police will be consulted. Punitive measures will be used as deemed appropriate by the head teacher such as removal from school teams, kept in during playtimes, etc. We aim to investigate and halt bullying and attempts will be made to help bullies to change their behaviour, as there are often underlying factors that lead children to bully others.

## **Outcomes for the bully**

- the bully will be asked to apologise
- action will be taken against the bully including some form of punishment
- attempts will be made for a reconciliation
- incidents will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place
- parents will be informed
- repeated/severe incidents may lead to minor fixed-term exclusion, major fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion.

## **Outcomes for the victim**

- bullied children will be listened to and taken seriously
- pupils will be reassured
- consistent support will be offered
- self-esteem and confidence will be restored
- children will feel protected within the school environment

## **Prevention**

We will work with the children to make our school a bully-free zone by:

- working together to produce a set of school rules
- having discussions about the causes and consequences of bullying
- incorporating a wide range of anti-bullying resources into P.S.H.E lessons
- make children aware of what they can do if they are being bullied
- create a telling school where any child will report incidents of bullying they have witnessed
- introduce SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning curriculum) as a whole school ethos.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The governors, head teacher and P.S.H.E co-ordinator at Castletown Primary School will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

***Review Date: Autumn 2018***