



Great Barford CofE Primary Academy

Anti-Bullying Policy

‘Growing together through learning, friendship and worship’

At Great Barford Primary Academy our aim is to create a happy, friendly environment within the school ensuring the well being of each pupil and thus providing each individual the opportunity to develop fully whilst enjoying a safe and caring atmosphere. However, we are aware that pupils may display behaviour which may cause emotional or physical hurt to others.

There is however a difference between “bullying” and the “one-off” frustrated verbal or physical responses of a pupil.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour and Discipline policy and the E-Safety policy.

Rationale

It is the basic entitlement of all children that they receive an education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse and that it takes place in an atmosphere that is caring and protective. We have a responsibility towards the children and also to parents and carers that they may send their children to our school with the confident knowledge that the children will be protected from bullies. Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We do all we can to prevent it by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

The Staff and Trustees at Great Barford Primary Academy wish to make it clear to pupils and their parents that **“Bullying will not be tolerated in the school”**.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is action that is meant to be hurtful, and which happens on a regular basis. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (e.g. being ignored or not spoken to). A pupil is being bullied, when another pupil or group of pupils say nasty things to him or her. It is also bullying when a pupil is hit, kicked threatened, locked inside a room, sent nasty notes, texts or e-mails, when no-one ever talks to them. It is not bullying when two children of about the same strength have the odd fight or quarrel.

Aims

It is our aim that pupils will:

- Develop a caring and considerate attitude towards others, taking responsibility for the well being of their fellow pupils and their needs.
- Understand what constitutes bullying.
- Understand that bullying, either of the physical or verbal varieties, will not be tolerated.

It is our aim that all staff will:

- Create a climate of trust and respect for all.
- Be aware of the anti-bullying policy.



- Be alert when on duty during break and lunch times.
- Supervise pupils well at all times.
- Encourage children to “tell” the nearest adult of their problems and not to retaliate.
- Let pupils know that they are cared for and that they must inform a member of staff if there is anything or anyone troubling them.
- Be prepared to listen to any complaints concerning harm or harassment, investigating them thoroughly without appearing to take sides.
- Be aware and sensitive to typical bullying signs:
 - Constant tears and signs of distress, especially after breaks.
 - Constant opting out of school activities.
 - Reluctance to join in with certain pupils.
 - Constant reports of damage to an individual’s property.
 - Refusal to go out to play.
 - Continuous or repeated patterns of absenteeism.
- Deal swiftly with any incidents of bullying and inform the headteacher or deputy immediately.

Role of Teachers

Teachers use a range of methods to prevent bullying including drama, role play, stories etc. within the formal curriculum to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of children and thus help create a positive atmosphere.

All staff need to report any acts of bullying immediately to the relevant class teacher. Teachers must then investigate this immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying and punishment for the child who has bullied: explaining why his/her action is wrong and encouraging him/her to change his/her behaviour in the future. The parents or carers of both the bully and the victim will be informed.

Behaviour should be given the same consideration as learning difficulties and possible learning strategies devised to develop more acceptable behaviour. It is necessary to look at individual needs and consider whether a consistent behaviour programme needs to be developed. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, the SENCO or headteacher may contact external support agencies.

Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and Carers, who are concerned that their child might be bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child’s class teacher immediately. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the headteacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school’s complaints procedures.