

Altham St. James C.E. Primary School



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Our mission statement is at the heart of all we do:

- Always be the best you can be
- Respect the world and everyone in it
- Love, forgive and reconcile

John 15:12 “Love each other as I have loved you”

INTRODUCTION

The Anti-bullying policy reflects the school mission statement and should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour policy. The school aims to foster values of tolerance and mutual respect through promoting the self esteem of all members of the school community. Bullying behaviour is contrary to the school ethos. We recognise that bullying is a concern for all of us, including pupils, teaching, non-teaching staff, parents and governors.

AIMS

The aims of this policy are to:

- Prevent or reduce bullying in any form.
- Adopt a consistent approach to dealing with incidents of bullying.
- Create an emotionally safe environment where positive relationships can develop.
- Ensure that all pupils, parents and staff are aware of this policy and their roles and responsibilities in contributing to its success.

DEFINITION OF BULLYING

By definition bullying is behaviour that intentionally and persistently causes distress to others.

PRINCIPLES

- Pupils have a right to learn in a safe and supportive environment, free from intimidation and fear.
- The welfare/well-being needs of all children and young people are paramount and pupils' needs (whether bully or targeted pupil) need to be separated from their behaviour.
- When bullying concerns are identified our school will work in a restorative and solution focused way to achieve the necessary change.
- Pupils who are targeted will be listened to and supported.
- Pupils who engage in bullying behaviour will be listened to and encouraged to accept responsibility and change their behaviour.
- Staff will work together, with those involved and with parents to resolve concerns.

- Parents will be made aware of our school's practice to prevent and to respond to concerns through consultation processes and where necessary, their active participation, in partnership with the school to resolve concerns involving their child.

FORMS OF BULLYING

Bullying can take many different forms and is behaviour that intentionally and persistently causes distress to others.

<p>PHYSICAL BULLYING</p> <p>e.g. hitting; pushing; kicking; tripping; spitting; hair pulling; throwing things; interfering with another's property by stealing / hiding / damaging / intruding upon it;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extortion / threatening demands for money or other items - writing or drawing offensive notes / graffiti about another 	<p>VERBAL BULLYING</p> <p>e.g. name calling; insulting or offensive remarks; accusing; taunting; put downs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ridiculing another's appearance/way of speaking/disability/personal mannerisms/race/colour/religion; - humiliating another publicly - spreading malicious or nasty rumours; threatening; intimidation; mocking; sarcasm
<p>EMOTIONAL BULLYING</p> <p>e.g. excluding/shunning others from group activity/social setting or play;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - belittling another's abilities or achievements; - menacing looks/stares; - rude signs or gestures 	<p>CYBER BULLYING</p> <p>e.g. misuse of e-mails, images, text, blogs, tweets, forums and chat rooms to hurt /embarrass /demean /harass /provoke or humiliate another using perceived anonymity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - misuse of mobile phones by text messaging /calls or images - again to hurt /embarrass /demean /harass /provoke or humiliate another using perceived anonymity - unauthorised publication or manipulation of private information; impersonation

These categories may be inter-related

Signs of stress in pupils which may indicate Bullying

- Child's unwillingness to attend school / lateness /erratic attendance.
- Avoidance, hanging back from playground or staying late at school.
- Deterioration of work or mislaid books, money, equipment or belongings / under achievement.
- Spurious illness / non specific pains, headaches, tummy upsets, withdrawn, loss of appetite.
- Nail biting / flinching / jumpiness / forgetfulness / distractibility.
- Impulsive hitting out / out of character temper, flare up or restlessness / sudden aggressiveness.
- Stresses manifested at home - bed wetting / insomnia / nightmares / restlessness and irritability.
- Reluctance to sit beside or near certain pupils / hesitant to walk home.

(N.B. whilst these behaviours may be symptomatic of other problems - bullying may be one reason)

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT OR REDUCE BULLYING

Altham St. James has established and will maintain the following strategies to prevent and reduce bullying behaviour:

Proactive Strategies to ensure awareness is raised.

- Promote School Ethos at all times (as regards Bullying - be a TELLING / LISTENING / RESPONDING school)
- Awareness of Rights and Responsibilities
- Recognise and reward good behaviour
- Use of creative learning to enhance social and emotional skills
- Ensure that all staff (teaching and non-teaching), parents and pupils and all members of the school community are aware of the school code of conduct and the Positive Behaviour Policy
- School worship
- Vigilant supervision - playground / general school environment
- Consultation with School Council
- PSHE lessons / Circle time
- Questionnaires
- Good parental communication
- Awareness raising eg Parent meetings, School Policies, newsletters, website
- Awareness of national Anti-Bullying Week (in November each year)
- Use of outside agencies - NSPCC, Childline
- Staff training / effective communication

Reactive Strategies

The following steps will be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- Attempts will be made to resolve the situation quickly
- Reports will be taken seriously
- Steps will be taken to ensure the child feels safe and secure
- Significant incidents will involve further investigation and recording. A clear account reported to the appropriate members of staff i.e. class teacher / Headteacher
- Significant or repeated incidents will require parents to be informed
- Disciplinary measures / sanctions, which are proportionate and clearly set out in the Positive Behaviour Policy, will be explained and used

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING

When dealing with bullying behaviour the school will aim to:

1. Stop the bullying behaviour.
2. Protect and support the bullied pupil.
3. Change the attitude and behaviour of the bully.

Every child can make mistakes and can behave in ways that are hurtful to others. In most cases a quiet word and an explanation of how others feel is sufficient to make a difference. Children can and do learn over time how to care for themselves and for others. We believe that learning from mistakes and being genuinely sorry for them is part of growing up to be a socially well adjusted person. We believe much can be achieved by talking with the perpetrator and the victim to achieve a resolution and reconciliation. In some cases, however, talking things through will not make enough of a difference and in these cases we reserve the right to apply a range of sanctions.

At Altham St. James if any type of bullying is highlighted, the following strategies will be implemented;

All staff will:

- Listen to concerns when reported.
- Identify those involved in the bullying incident.
- Give each pupil the opportunity to talk. The discussion will focus on finding a solution and stopping the bullying from recurring.
- Staff will remain neutral and avoid direct, closed questions.
- The pupils are helped to find their own solution to their personal disagreement and discuss how their proposals will be put into action.
- Other appropriate members of staff will be informed. Incidents will be recorded as appropriate.
- A follow-up meeting/discussion is useful to find out whether the solution has been effective or not
- Other consequences may take place. Eg a parent being informed about their child's behaviour and a request that the parents support the school with any sanctions that it takes (See Behaviour Policy).
- In some cases, outside agencies may be requested to support the school or family in dealing with a child continually demonstrating unacceptable behaviour towards others. eg police, counsellor, Mere Outreach Support - Sycamore Centre.
- In serious cases (this is defined as children displaying an on-going lack of response to sanctions, that is, no change in behaviour of the perpetrator and an unwillingness to alter their behaviour choices), support from behaviour outreach, counselling, reduced timetables, or even fixed or permanent exclusion will be considered.

- During and after the incident(s) have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be recorded in the Bullying Log (Appendix 1) and monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- The Governors will be informed of any incidents recorded in the log along with incidents, sanctions and reconciliation.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the school community have a key role in promoting, implementing and supporting the Anti-Bullying policy of Altham School. It is important that there is a collaborative whole school approach to address any difficulties which may be encountered. Everyone should work together to create a safe, happy and anti-bullying environment.

Staff should:

- Provide a safe, secure and caring environment.
- Promote and sustain good behaviour.
- Listen to all reports of bullying.
- Address each situation in line with procedures.
- Work collaboratively with all relevant members of the school community, developing positive partnerships with parents.

Pupils should:

- Report all incidents of bullying (if a child is being bullied or if another pupil is being bullied - TELL SOMEONE)
- Follow the school's code of conduct.
- Avoid inappropriate behaviour which might be considered as bullying.
- Be respectful and supportive to others.

Recording of Bullying Incidents

- When an incident of bullying has taken place, staff must record and report each incident to the Headteacher.
- All incidents of bullying will be discussed with all relevant staff and parents of the children involved, in order that everyone can be vigilant and that further incidents by the same child(ren) may be prevented from happening in the future.
- Confirmed incidents of bullying will be reported on the Headteachers Report and discussed with the Governing Body

Parents should:

- Work in partnership with the school.
- Advise their children to report any concerns to a member of staff.
- Discourage behaviours which might be considered as bullying.
- Stress to their children that retaliation is not helpful.
- Contact the school to arrange an appointment with the child's class teacher/ headteacher to discuss concerns.

- Co-operate with the school, if their child/children are accused of bullying, try to ascertain the truth and point out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves.

RESOURCES FOR THE PREVENTION OF BULLYING

We encourage a 'whole-school approach' in which children and adults work together to create an environment where everybody gets a clear message that bullying is wrong and will not be tolerated, that bullying behaviour of all kinds must be challenged.

- All school staff, teaching and non-teaching, will be familiar with the Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures for dealing with reports of bullying.
- Children will be encouraged to understand their roles in preventing bullying using, for example, drama; role-play and novels. Children will be guided to understand the feelings of bullied children and to practise the skills they need to avoid bullying.
- The Anti-Bullying policy will be published on the school website.

USEFUL WEBSITES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 020 7354 8321

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support , links and advice.

Alleged Bullying Incident Form

(i.e. significant / repeated / or serious one-off incident)

	Name (s)	Gender	Class/Room
Complainant(s)			
Alleged child (children who has been bullied (if different from above)			
Alleged child (children) who has displayed bullying behaviour			
Date of incident:			
Location of incident:			
<p>Type of incident: Please tick/circle appropriate types</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Bullying (includes jostling, physical intimidation, interfering with personal property (stealing, damaging, intruding upon it) punching/kicking, any other physical contact which may include hair pulling, spitting or use of 'weapon', extortion, writing/drawing offensive notes.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Bullying (includes name calling, insults, jokes, threats, spreading malicious rumours, ridicule of another's appearance/disability/personal mannerisms/way of speaking, humiliating another publicly, mocking, sarcasm, intimidation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Bullying (includes isolation, refusal to work with/talk to/play with/help others, mobbing the individual, belittling another's abilities, or achievements, menacing looks, stares or rude gestures)</p>			

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Cyber Bullying (please specify) _____

Details of Incident

Action/support for child(ren) who has/have been bullied i.e. on-going support / monitoring from staff (including time frame of follow up action required)

Parental involvement (please specify e.g. dates and details of information received)

NAME OF STAFF MEMBER(S) INVOLVED

Date: _____