

Ashford Park Primary School



Inspiring a love for lifelong learning

Anti-Bullying Policy

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ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

At Ashford Park Primary School we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a staff member.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the **repeated, persistent** and **deliberately harmful** behaviour towards others which can be **physical, verbal or emotional**. It could involve individuals or groups of people.

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional:** Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- **Physical:** Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Racist:** Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual:** Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- **Homophobic:** Because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- **Verbal:** Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- **Cyber:** All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. We all have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these **possible** signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

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

Procedures

1. Incidents need to be reported, investigated and evaluated.
2. In cases of bullying which is judged as ongoing and "serious" parents will be informed and where appropriate a meeting will be called to discuss the inappropriate behaviour (**"serious" = repeated, persistent and deliberately harmful which is physical, verbal or emotional.**)
3. It is the expectation that all parents will work in partnership with the school to prevent bullying type behaviour.
4. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and all efforts will be made to stop the bullying.
6. All attempts will be made to support the victim.
7. All attempts will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. Parents will work with the school to address their child's behaviour.
3. In serious cases, suspension will be considered.
4. Support from professional outside agencies will be sought where considered appropriate.
5. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
6. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

We use our values based learning and JIGSAW materials for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- An understanding that bullying is wrong and is not acceptable at school or in the wider community
- Developing further the school "Behaviour for Learning Policy"
- Restorative Approaches
- Setting up behaviour contracts
- Social stories, writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about how to promote positive behaviour free from bullying
- Use of puppets as a "distancing technique", enabling pupils to discuss personal issues without embarrassment
- Use of photographs taken during role play of aspects of bullying. Photographs then analysed with feelings portrayed and time given to consider the consequences of different courses of action
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly to discuss ways to prevent bullying and how the school will deal with
- consider drama and role play (e.g KIDSCAPE role-play examples)
- having discussions about bullying and how it impacts on school life

Our pupils contribute to our school through:

- Taking on responsibilities by playing a part in the school and wider community through: Head Girl and Boy, Prefects, Play leaders, Monitors and School Council. These experiences raise awareness of roles, rights and responsibilities related to the world of work.
- The positions of responsibility are representative of pupils from different groups who engage in the decision-making processes and consultations which affect the quality of learning and well-being at Ashford Park.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
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

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

