



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



THIS POLICY is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for bullying at Spittal Community First School.

IT WAS DEVELOPED during the summer of 2009, through a process on consultation between teachers and Governors.

IT WAS APPROVED by the Governing Body in summer 2009 reviewed in 2012, 2014, 2017 and updated in 2021.

Aims and objectives:

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

Definition

Bullying is any deliberate, hurtful, upsetting, frightening or threatening behaviour by an individual or a group towards other people. It is repeated over a period of time and it is very difficult for the victims to defend themselves.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures), ridicule, humiliation
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, throwing stones, biting, spitting, punching or any other forms of violence, taking or hiding someone's things
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, making fun of culture and religion
- Online/cyber - setting up 'hate websites', sending offensive text messages, emails and abusing the victims via their mobile phones
- Indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, unreasonable exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours

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We do not consider bullying to be:

- An isolated incident.
- A falling-out.
- A "one-off" disagreement.

Cyber-bullying

There are many types of cyber-bullying:

1. Text messages —those that are threatening or cause discomfort.
2. Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
3. Mobile phone calls — silent calls or abusive messages.
4. Emails — threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a false name or somebody else's name.
5. Chat room bullying — menacing or upsetting responses to children when they are in web-based Chat room.
6. Instant messaging (IM) — unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger) or similar platforms

What school does about the risks from cyber-bullying:

- Teaches children how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misusing them.
- Teaches them to know what to do if they or someone they know is being cyber bullied.
- Encourages them to report any problems with cyber bullying. If they do have a problem, they can talk to the school, parents or the police.

School response

All issues of bullying will be treated seriously and urgently.

An issue of bullying may be raised by pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff or governors. All such incidents are to be reported to the head teacher/deputy head.

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The head teacher/deputy head will be responsible for investigating any incidents and record details as appropriate.

All pupils are encouraged to speak openly about the issue of bullying. They are also made aware of the procedure should someone bully them. The issue is also covered in our Personal, Health and Social (PHSE) programme.

Pupils raising an issue of bullying

- Children in school have the right to feel safe and to enjoy a happy and secure environment.
- Pupils who feel bullied are encouraged to tell an adult.
- A child raising an issue of bullying will be listened to and the details of the allegation taken seriously.
- Staff will investigate all incidents and will listen carefully to all accounts. The head teacher/deputy head will be informed.
- All staff will be informed of specific bullying issues. The situation will be closely monitored and followed up to check that the bullying has not resumed.
- Parents to be informed of serious incidents.

Pupils causing bullying

- Pupils who instigate bullying will be identified and the consequences of their actions pointed out.
- Pupils will be given clear guidance about unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour.
- Pupils will be warned not to do it again and understand that their actions will not be tolerated.
- If necessary, pupils will be given support to resolve difficult situations without using violence or aggression.
- Parents will be informed of the matter and their support will be sought.
- Regular monitoring of behaviour and social relationships will be maintained.
- In the event that bullying is persistent and sustained further action may be necessary

a) Behaviour Support staff from LIST may be called upon.

b) Educational Psychologist may be called upon.

Should bullying persist the school will consider school exclusion. This may be temporary or permanent.

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Role of staff

- All staff will maintain a close watch on children and look out for signs of unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour. They will intervene where necessary.
- Encourage children to talk openly about issues causing them concern.
- Encourage children to talk about bullying issues.
- Encourage positive behaviour in the classroom and outside.
- Establish a climate of trust and respect for all children.
- Encourage children to report any observed bullying of other children.

Role of parents

- Parents, who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be bullying another child, should contact their child's class teacher immediately.
- Parents are expected to support the school policy on anti-bullying and stay in close contact with the school should their child be the victim of bullying. Similarly, close contact is expected from parents should their child be the cause of the bullying.
- Parents are expected to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of school.
- Parents are expected to be actively involved in resolving issues of bullying.

Role of governors

- The Governing Body supports the Head teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying in school.
- The Governing Body reviews the Anti-Bullying Policy every three years or earlier if necessary.

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Strategies for the prevention and reduction of bullying

It is the responsibility of all within school to maintain the ethos of the school. We are committed to:

- Focus on the positive.
- Making clear what is expected behaviour and using praise and reward to reinforce this.
- Teaching good behaviour/manners through our own conduct.

Strategies for preventing bullying include:

- Making pupils aware, through class discussion, of the problems that can be caused by bullying.
- Integrating the theme of bullying in school through the PHSE curriculum.
- Establishing class rules which promote positive behaviour.
- Undertaking questionnaires and surveys to monitor the extent of bullying in school.

Monitoring and review:

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

The anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness regularly. They do this by discussion with the Headteacher. Governors may analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Date: