

St Helen Auckland Community Primary School

Anti Bullying Policy

All children are encouraged to be active participants in all aspects of school life. In school we seek to promote a safe, caring, secure and positive environment, in which children are happy and can develop making full use of the range of facilities available to them to ensure effective learning takes place.

All children and adults have a right to be treated with respect and understanding, free from intimidation. Bullying is harmful to all involved, not just the bullied. Bullying can lead to self doubt, lack of confidence, low self esteem, depression, anxiety and self harm and suicide.

Bullying is recognised as:

Deliberate; hurtful behaviour; repeated over a period of time; where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying can be:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, pushing, theft
- Verbal – name calling including racist, sexist and homophobic remarks; making verbal threats; taunting, mocking and making offensive comments
- Indirect – spreading hurtful and untrue rumours; excluding someone from social groups; text messaging; emailing; gossiping

In our school all aspects of bullying are taken seriously. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated; it will not be treated as just part of school life or as children just being children.

School is responsible for:

- providing parents / carers with a clear expectation on the schools approach to bullying
- being a proactive school
- sharing one vision and approach to taking bullying seriously
- raising the awareness of both adults and children about bullying

Objectives:

- To discuss bullying incidents with all parties involved
- To agree strategies to be used with all parties – using the Restorative Justice Approach

- To inform parents of all repeated bullying incidents reported to and recorded by staff
- To ensure Child Protection Procedures are followed
- To record and monitor all reported bullying incidents

Signs of bullying

The behaviour of children, young people and adults can sometimes be difficult to understand. There can be many reasons for change in behaviour. Being bullied can be one reason for changes in behaviour. It is important to be alert to the possibility that bullying may be occurring. The child may:

- Become withdrawn, clingy, moody, aggressive, un co-operative or non communicative
- Revert to immature ways
- Have problems eating or sleeping
- Have difficulty concentrating
- Show variations in performance
- Have cuts or bruises without adequate explanation
- Request extra money or start stealing
- Have damaged or lost clothes or possessions
- Frequently complain of feeling ill
- Show a marked change in well established patterns of behaviour – reluctance to leave class, request to change school

These signs can also be an indication of other problems and may not always be linked to bullying.

Procedures to follow when bullying occurs

All staff are aware of procedures to follow when an incident is reported to them. Staff use the restorative justice approach to help those harmed by bullying. All incidents are recorded and treated seriously. Sanctions vary but could include the stronger sanction of exclusion referred to in the [Behaviour Policy](#).

All recorded incidents are followed up and if necessary sanctions are imposed support will be provided and parents informed. All staff will have access to incident sheets and discussions take place to ensure inappropriate behaviours are not repeated.

Intervention Strategies

As a proactive school several preventions strategies are in place including:

- Staff training to raise awareness
- Buddies and mini buds
- Learning Mentor support and involvement

- Organised activities at break times
- Work within the curriculum – drama, assemblies, PSHCE, SEAL
- Involvement and use of outside agencies – Educational Psychologist, Traveller Service, Crisis and Behaviour Intervention Team, The Centre
- Use of Getting Along and Circle Time Programme
- SEAL staff, family and children’s activities for each topic throughout the year
- Emphasis on positives such as making friends, being good friends, team work, being a good citizen, empathising with others
- Sharing and celebrating successes
- Raising self esteem at every opportunity
- Involvement in sporting and other out of school activities
- After school clubs

Help for Parents

Parents who know or think that bullying is taking place are actively encouraged to report or discuss the incident with a member of staff
 Support or advice can be offered in a variety of ways including strategies to help at home – both for the victim and the perpetrator
 Websites and leaflets are available in school

Out of School Issues

We feel that anyone who is a witness to bullying in any form in or out of school has a responsibility to report it. Out of school bullying can be referred to other agencies where appropriate support can be accessed. (Social services, police, child line).

Headteacher signature: _____

Governor signature : _____

Date: September 2021

This Policy will be reviewed in 2 years, September 2023

