



EVEN SWINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-bullying policy

Date: November 2022

Review date: November 2023

Authorised by: Governing Body

Updated by: Deputy Headteacher

Introduction

The Anti-Bullying Policy supports all members of our school community in learning and working in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and can affect anyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. A person has the right to be treated with respect and has the responsibility to treat others in the same way.

This Anti-Bullying Policy is concerned with the way in which pupils conduct themselves and interact with adults and their peers around the school. It should be read in conjunction with the Equal Opportunities Policy, the Safeguarding Policy, the Pupil Behaviour Policy and the Online Safety Policy.

Definition

At Even Swindon Primary School, we define bullying as behaviour that repeatedly hurts someone, or a group of people, on purpose. With the children we use the expression 'if someone keeps on doing it'.

Bullying may take the form of:

- physical (repeated hitting, kicking)
- verbal (repeated teasing, name calling, racist or homophobic remarks and remarks)
- aimed at other vulnerable groups)
- emotional (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)
- online bullying by means of internet or mobile phone

With younger children there must be a distinction made between bullying and bossiness and between bullying and boisterous play. Most young children grow out of bossiness as they become more self-controlled and learn the social skills of negotiation and compromise.

Identification

Our school staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with this policy. Pupils are encouraged always to show courage in reporting instances of bullying.

Signs of bullying may include:

- Reluctance to go out to play
- Reluctance to come to school
- Lack of concentration
- Drop in standard of work
- Physical injuries
- Withdrawn personality
- Possessions regularly going missing
- Becoming nervous and shy
- Clinging to adults
- Exhibiting atypical aggressive behaviour

Our strategies for preventing bullying

Pupil well-being has a high profile in our school, and the following measures are taken to create an inclusive and compassionate environment:

School ethos - Our school ethos centres on providing a safe, secure, happy and caring environment which aims to foster children's respect for themselves and others. We build successful relationships with families and the community who all work together to identify and address any issues of potential bullying or communicate an anti-bullying message to the children. All adults in the school model respect for each other and for the children.

Curriculum - Through various curriculum activities and our Good to Be Green behaviour system, children are taught about their responsibilities and the consequences of their behaviour. They are taught that knowing about bullying by or to others and doing nothing, is unacceptable.

PSHE lessons ensure that the focus on Anti Bullying and e-Safety is maintained throughout the year. Children are taught to understand their own and other people's feelings. They are taught about friendship and relationships, fairness and justice. Issues such as prejudice against disabled people, sexism, racism and homophobia are discussed in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner. They are taught strategies for dealing with conflict with a view to preventing a situation escalating into bullying.

In Computing, children are taught about responsible use of the internet, and approved websites support discussions. All use of the Internet is closely supervised, and is in line with our Acceptable Use Policy. We teach the children to understand what constitutes online bullying and we give them the skills to deal with it. We access external sources to support with our teaching of online bullying and all other areas of bullying (see Appendix A).

Curriculum time and resources are used for relevant units of work. Assemblies and whole class interventions, such as Circle Time, are used by teachers to enable children to explore issues and dilemmas.

We also run a yearly Anti-Bullying Week where the profile of the issue is raised and the children are encouraged to discuss the causes and prevention of bullying.

Pupil Voice - Children are positively encouraged to report all occurrences of bullying. The school's anti-bullying mentors (trained by The Diana Award) and monitors are consulted on issues to do with behaviour and bullying; they act as Playground Friends at break times through the use of Friendship Benches in each playground. Children can request support through a 'post box' which the anti-bullying monitors oversee and pass on to the adults in school who deal with anti-bullying (Miss Sly, Mrs Lowe and Mrs Chard.) Pupil voice and surveys, to monitor the children's experience of bullying and the effectiveness of the policy, are used annually by the deputy head with children across the school.

Communication – We publicise the fact that bullying is not acceptable in our school and that all allegations of bullying will be investigated. We use assemblies, lesson time and corridor displays to inform pupils of our policy. We use our prospectus, website and newsletters – as appropriate – to inform parents of our policy. All staff are made aware of the policy, and can access it in hard copy; on the school website; and on the school ICT network (T Shared > Policies 22-23 > Anti-bullying policy).

Supervision – All staff are watchful and observe the social relationships developing in a class and across a year group. Children's mobile phones are not allowed in school. We ensure that there are no 'unsafe' areas in the school and that supervisors are able to monitor areas where children play. We ensure that Teaching Assistants and Midday Supervisory Assistants are informed of any bullying incidents, and that all staff members are advised on how to identify any likely incidents that might occur in the classroom, hall or in the playground.

Vulnerable groups – the school keeps a log of vulnerable groups, including LAC, Young Carers, Free School Meals, Pupil Premium, EAL, SEND, and other children specified by the class teacher. These children are more closely monitored.

Our procedures for dealing with bullying

We have two main aims when reacting to bullying:

1. To make the child who has been bullied feel safe.
2. To encourage better behaviour from the child who has displayed bullying behaviours.

The following steps should be taken when dealing with incidents:

- Incidents will be investigated immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- If an incident requires action, notes will be written and shared with strategic SLT, and then the following process is to be used:
 - Meeting with SLT member, class teacher, parents and child carrying out the bullying (select as appropriate) to discuss and agree action plan – meeting documented on ‘meeting with parent’ form and a 6-week review meeting set
 - Day decided for weekly in school review meeting between child and member of staff to check progress against agreed actions
 - 6-week review meeting held with SLT member, class teacher, parents and child (decision made about need for action plan to continue or cease)
 - Can be re-opened at any time as necessary if decision to cease is appropriate

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their class teacher or member of staff of their choice
- reassuring the pupil
- offering continuous support (eg through the buddy system with anti-bullying monitors, teamwork with parents, opportunities to talk)
- Allocating a staff mentor of child’s choice

Pupils who have bullied will be helped to change their behaviour by:

- discussing what happened
- discussing why they became involved
- establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- teaching of social skills by the playtime nurture group staff
- raising empathy for the victim, and promote friendship
- support from our Pastoral TA

The following disciplinary steps can and may be taken:

- red card issued
- official warning by the Headteacher to change their behaviour
- withdrawal of playtime/s
- exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- internal suspension
- fixed-term suspension
- permanent exclusion

Roles and Responsibilities

The Role of Governors

- The Governing Body supports the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The Governing Body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.

- The Governing Body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The Governors require the Headteacher to keep records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.
- The Chair of Governors examines the school's anti-bullying records, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the Headteacher. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, homophobic bullying or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.
- A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident can ask the Chair of Governors to look into the matter. The Governing Body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the Governing Body notifies the Headteacher and asks her to conduct an investigation into the case, and to report back to a representative of the Governing Body.

The Role of the Headteacher

- Headteachers have a legal duty to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils.
- The Headteacher reports to the Governing Body about the effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Policy, on request.
- The Headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments.
- The Headteacher ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- The Headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

The Role of the Teacher and Support Staff

- All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.
- Teachers keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class, and that they are aware of in the school. If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will follow the steps outlined above.
- All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.
- All members of staff use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all.

The Role of Parents

- Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately by phoning the school or emailing admin@evenswindon.co.uk where information will be passed on to your child's class teacher, or by speaking to the teacher directly at the end of the day.
- Parents have a responsibility to support the school's Anti-Bullying Policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school. In this school, we actively discourage children from 'fighting back'. We encourage parents to remember that they are role models for their children. We believe that if a child has a problem caused by someone else, then the correct way of dealing with it is to tell a grown-up. This is how the problem gets sorted out - not by retaliation or confrontation.
- Parents need to be aware of this policy in school and we ask for their support in reinforcing and implementing it.

The Role of Pupils

- Pupils are encouraged to tell anybody they trust if they are being bullied or if they know bullying is taking place; and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know.
- Pupils are taught that, as members of our school community, they have responsibilities to each other, they should make their own choices and they should not 'go along with the crowd'.

We will know this policy is working when:

Generally:

- Children are tolerant and well informed as to strategies to combat bullying.
- The incidents of bullying are being dealt with effectively, with parental satisfaction; surveys, pupil voice and circle time discussions support this.

Specifically:

- The victim is no longer being bullied, as evidenced verbally (i.e. able to articulate positive feelings) and by positive behaviour (e.g. happy, smiling, willing to participate in activities, good attendance), and self-esteem is high.
- The bully is no longer bullying and self-esteem is high.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The effectiveness of this policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher, who reports this to Governors on request. This policy is formally evaluated and reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher.

Appendix A

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

1. General advice on bullying/sources of help

- Anti-bullying Alliance www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Anti-Bullying Network www.antibullying.net
- Anti-Bullying: The Diana Award www.antibullyingpro.com
- Beat Bullying www.beatbullying.org Email: hello@beatbullying.org Tel: 0208 771 3377
- Beyond Bullying (Leicestershire Anti-Bullying Team) www.beyondbullying.com
- Bully Online www.bullyonline.org
- Bully.org www.bully.org
- Bullying UK www.bullying.co.uk
- Kidscape www.kidscape.org.uk

2. Online bullying

- Childnet International www.childnet.com
- Email: info@childnet.com Tel: 020 7639 6967
- Dot Com Children's Foundation <http://dotcomcf.org>
- Think U Know www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
- Hector's World www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld/