



New Pasture Lane School

ANTI -BULLYING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Context

The school gives highest priority to safeguarding children. We ensure that children are kept safe and feel safe.

The law says that pupils have a right to be educated in an atmosphere which is free from fear. Head teachers and others responsible for running schools have a duty to do all they reasonably can to protect pupils in their charge from intimidation, assault or harassment. This right and this duty are enshrined within documents such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, European Convention on Human Rights, the Education Act 2002 and the Change for Children Outcomes of Every child Matters(2004)

Tackling bullying at our school requires partnership working between children, parents and carers, school staff and outside agencies where appropriate.

We help and inform children so that they play a key role in managing risk by keeping themselves and other pupils safe.

The overlap between bullying and teasing is an important one to be aware of. Bullying is often defined as part of a continuum of verbal or physical interaction, there have been attempts to distinguish bullying from playing', 'teasing' and 'fighting'. These distinctions are considered important because teasing, for example is generally regarded as acceptable, whereas bullying is not .

There may be a degree of overlap between 'bullying' and 'teasing'. However, it is commonly argued that behaviour that is intended to be hurtful represents a defining characteristic of bullying and the important factor is how the child who is the target is made to feel.

POLICY AIMS-

The aim of New Pasture Lane School Anti Bullying policy is to ensure that:

1. Pupils feel safe and are kept safe
2. To ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment, without fear of being bullied.
3. Children are acutely aware of different forms of bullying and are actively trying to prevent it.

Bullying is anti-social behaviour which affects everyone, it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by our school community. We will monitor and evaluate procedures that will help prevent bullying and seek to ensure that the Behaviour Policy is an effective vehicle for dealing with bullying incidents.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is the wilful conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else, it can be carried out by groups or individuals and falls into the following categories:

- **Physical:** pushing, hitting, kicking, punching and other forms of violence
- **Verbal:** name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats
- **Emotional:** excluding, humiliation, threatening gestures, hiding things, tormenting, ridicule
- **Prejudice based bullying** – relating to special needs, disability, sexual orientation, sex, race, religion and belief,
Racist: racial taunts, graffiti or gestures
Sexual: unwanted physical contact, abusive comments, homophobic comments
- **On-line/ Cyber:** setting up hate websites, abusive text message or emails

Bullying usually includes deliberate hostility and aggression, a weaker and less powerful victim and a painful and distressing outcome for the victim.

Signs of Bullying

A child may have their possessions “mysteriously” go missing

Ask parents or carers for money or steal money to pay the bully

Refuse to say what is wrong

Become distressed or angry with family members

Refuse to come to school

Unusual behaviour for example: not wanting to go out to play/staying with an adult

Deliberate misuse/abuse of disability aids/equipment

Our Stated Commitment is that when a child speaks out about bullying:

- They will be listened to.
 - Their concerns will be taken seriously.
 - The matters will be investigated.
 - Together we will find a way to tackle it.
1. New Pasture Lane School aims to create an ethos that shows that bullying is not acceptable,
 2. Each teasing/bullying event will require a different solution with different levels of intervention.

3. Intervention will be tailored to meet the needs of the child, parents and classroom peers. Active listening and making accurate notes of the events is central to investigating reports of bullying/ teasing.
4. The value of responding to children's reports of bullying as soon as is practical is at the heart of the school's response as, if bullying is not tackled promptly and in the right way the consequences may be very destructive.
5. We believe that children must not simply be rescued; they need to learn coping or reactive strategies and conflict resolution strategies. They need to be helped to build resilience - it is important not to inadvertently promote or perpetuate helplessness or victim-hood.
6. Children do need the continuing support of adults in the process of dealing with bullying and bringing it to a stop
7. The curriculum is used to promote safeguarding so that children are taught
 - I. How to stay safe
 - II. How to protect themselves from harm
 - III. How to take responsibility for their own and others safety and well being

Anti- Bullying Procedures

1. Pre-empting potential threatening situations eg. Lunchtime clubs, anti bullying ambassadors.
2. Bullying incidents reported to staff
3. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
4. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
5. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
6. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
7. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Tackling Bullying: Whole School Proactive Approaches

Log of bullying incidents and outcomes

SEAL

Using stories from contemporary children's literature

Parent and Carer Workshops and consultation

Involvement of outside agencies

Lunchtime clubs for vulnerable pupils

Awareness raising and staff training, including midday supervisors

Whole school Anti Bullying Week

Positive play and Lunchtime playrangers

Anti bullying Ambassadors

Child Line Number

Documents Consulted :

- Safeguarding in schools Best Practise (Sept 2011)
- Guidance Safeguarding Children in Education – DfES/0027/2004)
- www.everychildmatters.gov.uk
- <http://www.kidscape.org.uk/download/index.asp>
- DFES(2000)'Bullying: Don't Suffer in Silence',
- DfEE, (1999)The National Healthy School Standard
- Draft evaluation schedule for inspection of maintained schools. Sept 2011.

See Appendices:

- I. Bullying survey results 2008 at New Pasture Lane School
- II. SEAL Programme of work : Say NO to Bullying
- III. Bullying Advice for Parents and Carers
- IV. Safe Use of Digital Technology
- V. Flow chart procedures for dealing with bullying

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