

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ANTI BULLYING



Chester-Le-Street CE Primary School does not tolerate bullying in any form. All members of the school community are committed to ensuring a safe, caring environment where children are free to learn and grow.

Rationale.

The mission statement and ethos underpin the life, work and relationships of the school. When incidents of bullying behaviour are brought to our attention, we take action to prevent, or reduce the possibility of it happening again. We support the child who is being bullied so he/she feels safe and happy at school, and challenge the child who has shown bullying behaviour with the aim of changing his/her attitude and behaviour. Bullying behaviour is dealt with through the Behaviour Management Policy.

What is bullying?

There are many definitions of bullying, but it is generally agreed to be *deliberately hurtful behaviour which is repeated over a period of time by the same person or a group of people*. It may be difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Although it takes many forms the three main types of bullying are:

- Physical – e.g. hitting, kicking, or taking / interfering with someone else's belongings.
- Verbal – e.g. name-calling, using 'put-downs' or belittling someone's efforts, insulting, racist or homophobic remarks.
- Indirect – e.g. spreading nasty stories or malicious rumours, excluding someone from a group, sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phone/Social networking.

How does bullying affect someone?

- They may feel frightened, angry, powerless or embarrassed.
- Their work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer.
- They may feel worried and not know what to do.

- They should tell an adult who can help or someone they trust, who will tell an adult who can help.

What do we do to prevent bullying at Chester-le-Street CE Primary School?

The school is proactive in taking preventative measures to reduce incidents of bullying behaviour.

For example, we:

- create an open environment where incidents of bullying are reported to staff.
- actively patrol communal areas during breaks, lunch-time and home time. (Teaching and non-teaching staff).
- look for signs that may indicate bullying behaviour and report suspected incidents to the appropriate member of staff for example, the class teacher, the Deputy Headteacher or the Headteacher.
- promote the Buddy scheme.
- have Teaching Assistants and a Counsellor available to meet with children in a pastoral role.
- promote good self-esteem through the reward system.
- reward positive behaviour.
- encourage peer group support.
- liaise with other agencies for example, the School Health team and Behaviour Support Services where necessary.
- expect adults to provide a positive role model in word and action.
- provide appropriate training for staff.
- ensure that children have easy access for help, one option being through a classroom 'Worry Box.'
- hold Anti-Bullying events/assemblies in school.

What can children do to stop bullying?

- To know what bullying is and be able to recognise it.
- Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation.
- Look after each other. If they are present when bullying occurs, tell someone who can help.

What can parents do to stop bullying?

- Have a shared understanding with the school about **the definition of bullying**.

- Work in partnership with the school. Parents are asked to inform the school of any changes in their child's home life, so the school can support him/her effectively.
- Watch for signs of distress in their child e.g. unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches, missing equipment, damaged clothing or bruising.
- Talk to their child about bullying behaviour, to ensure that his / her behaviour makes school a happy place for other children.
- Take an active interest in their child's social life and friends.
- Encourage their child to tell a member of staff about an incident. This empowers the child.
- Inform the school if bullying is suspected.
- Keep a written record (who, what, when, where, why, how.)
- Tell their child that parental involvement may be appropriate for the situation.
- Be willing to visit the school if their child is involved in a bullying incident.
- Be willing to inform school of any cases of suspected bullying, even if their child is not involved.

Some parents want the school to know and support their child, but do not want their child to know that they have contacted the school. In these instances, the school is able to deal with the situation in a sensitive and confidential manner.

What happens when a bullying incident is reported?

- We will listen sympathetically to the child making the complaint and take his/her concerns seriously.
- Ensure the immediate safety of the child.
- Investigate the incident, informing the child making the complaint of the action being taken and the timescale. If the parent has made the complaint we will keep them informed of progress.
- If an incident of bullying behaviour has occurred, each case will be treated individually and circumstances considered, in deciding appropriate action to ensure it does not occur again.
- Record incidents and actions being taken and bring them to the attention of the Headteacher.
- Monitor the situation and evaluate actions taken.
- By working together, we can create a happier, safer school environment.

Helplines and Useful Websites

Childline 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
Confidential free phone line for children in trouble or danger.

NSPCC 0191 2260155 www.nspcc.org.uk/kidszone

Useful websites

www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying

www.teachernet.gov/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/antibullyingpack/strategies

www.ncb.org.uk/aba (Anti-Bullying Alliance)

www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

www.library.thinkquest.org

www.luckyduck.co.uk

www.stoptextbully.com

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

- We think everyone needs to understand what bullying is. Sometimes children fall out and argue with their friends but it's not bullying. We try hard to teach children in our school what bullying is.
- If anyone gets bullied we have buddies and teachers who will sort it out quickly.
- We think bullies are cowards.
- Our school does lots of things to stop bullying.
- If you are bullied you should tell someone, don't keep it inside or it will get worse.
- Bullies go for people they think they can scare.
- Sometimes we can sort out our own fallouts.
- Please tell someone if they see someone being bullied.
- We have Buddies in year 2 and 6 to look after younger children.
- We have assemblies about not bullying people.