

# William Gilpin C. of E. Primary School

## Anti-bullying Policy

The school has a 'duty of care' towards its pupils with regard to bullying in that the Headteacher and staff stand in loco parentis (in place of the parents). This duty of care includes protecting pupils from harm from bullying.

This policy takes full account of the school's legal obligations under the Education Act of 1986 to:

- Have a policy to prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils.
- To make a written copy of the anti-bullying statement available on request.
- To set out the strategies to be followed with a system to implement them and a mechanism for monitoring and reviewing their effectiveness.

### Definition of Bullying

Bullying can be defined in a number of ways. We follow DCSF guidance which defines bullying as:

"Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour repeated often over a period of time or on isolated occasions, where somebody deliberately intimidates or harasses another".  
(DCSF September 2002)

### Bullying has been described by pupils as:

- Name calling
- Teasing
- Physical abuse e.g. hitting, pushing, pinching or kicking
- Having personal possessions taken e.g. bag or mobile phone
- Receiving abusive text messages or e-mails
- Being forced to hand over money
- Being forced to do things they don't want to do
- Being ignored or left out
- Being attacked in any way due to religion, gender, sexuality, disability, appearance or racial or ethnic origin.

### Specific Examples of Bullying

#### Racist Bullying

An incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.

This can be in the form of:

- Verbal abuse, name calling, racist jokes, offensive mimicry
- Physical threats or attacks
- Inciting others to behave in a racist way
- Racist graffiti or other written insults, even against food, music, dress or customs.

#### Sexual Bullying

This is generally characterised by:

- Abusive name calling
- Looks and comments about appearance, attractiveness, emerging puberty.

**SEN or Disability** – These pupils are often at greater risk of bullying. This can be characterised by:

- Name calling
- Comments on appearance
- Comments with regard to perceived ability and achievement levels.

The need for adult sensitivity should be taken into account in a number of instances, e.g. when grouping children, marking children's work, sharing of results and assessment arrangements as well as an awareness of appropriate language being used when addressing pupils.

### **School Statement of Intent (with regard to its position on bullying).**

**This school believes that:**

- Bullying is undesirable and unacceptable.
- Bullying is a problem to which solutions can be found.
- Seeking help and openness are regarded as signs of strength not weakness.
- All members of the school community will be listened to and taken seriously.
- Everyone has the right to work and learn in an atmosphere that is free from fear.
- All of us have a responsibility to ensure that we do not abuse or bully others.
- Young people should talk to an adult if they are worried about bullying and have a right to expect that their concerns will be listened to and treated seriously.
- Young people should be involved in decision making about matters that concern them.
- We all have a duty to work together to protect vulnerable individuals from bullying and other forms of abuse.

### **Aims of the Policy**

- To assist in creating an ethos in which attending school is a positive experience for all members of the school community.
- To make it clear that all forms of bullying are unacceptable at school.
- To enable everyone to feel safe while at school and encourage pupils to report incidences of bullying.
- To deal effectively with bullying.
- To support and protect victims of bullying and ensure they are listened to.
- To help and support bullies to change their attitudes as well as their behaviour and understand why it needs to change.
- To liaise with parents and other appropriate members of the school community.
- To ensure all members of the school community feel responsible for combating bullying.

### **Objectives**

- To maintain and develop effective listening systems for pupils and staff within the school.
- To involve all staff in dealing with incidents of bullying effectively and promptly.
- To equip all staff with the skills necessary to deal with bullying.
- To involve the wider school community (e.g. midday supervisors) in dealing effectively with, and if necessary referring, bullying incidents.
- To communicate with parents and the wider school community effectively on the subject of bullying.
- To acknowledge the key role of the class teacher/ form tutor in dealing with incidents of bullying.
- To ensure that all incidents of bullying are recorded and appropriate use is made of the information and where appropriate shared with relevant organisations.

**Code of Conduct** (with regard to school behaviour and relationships within the school community).

We recognise that all adults in the school are in effect role models for the students. The way in which we behave towards each other and to students is particularly important in terms of providing positive role models. Therefore, as adults we must:

- Show respect for every student and other colleagues within the school community as individuals
- Be aware of vulnerable students
- Criticise the behaviour rather than the student
- Avoid favouritism
- Be seen to be fair
- Avoid labelling
- Have high expectations of students
- Never give students ammunition to use against each other
- Actively seek to develop a praise culture within the school.

Young people also have a responsibility to role model appropriate behaviour for their peers. We therefore believe that all students must:

- Show respect for their fellow students and adults working within the school community
- Support and be sensitive to others when they may be feeling vulnerable
- Actively seek to develop a praise culture within the school
- Actively support the school anti-bullying policy
- Take responsibility for their own behaviour.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Every member of the school community is entitled to expect equality of protection from bullying as well as protection and support from school policies and procedures designed to ensure that the school remains a safe environment in which to teach and learn.

### **Procedures and Dealing with Incidents ~ A Whole School Approach**

#### **Guidance for parents**

If your child has been bullied:

- Calmly talk with your child about his/ her experiences.
- Make a note of what your child says including who was involved, how often the bullying has occurred, where it happened and what happened.
- Reassure your child that he/ she has done the right thing to tell you about the bullying.
- Explain to your child that should any further incidents occur he/she should report them to a teacher immediately.
- Make an appointment to see your child's teacher.
- Explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing.

#### **When talking with teachers about bullying:**

- Try to stay calm and bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident.
- Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened, give dates, places and names of other children involved.
- Make a note of what action the school intends to take.
- Ask if there is anything you can do to help your child or the school.
- Stay in touch with the school and let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

### **If your child is bullying others:**

- Talk with your child and explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes other children unhappy.
- Discourage other members of your family from bullying behaviour or from using aggression or force to get what they want.
- Show your child how he/ she can join in with other children without bullying.
- Make an appointment to see your child's teacher and explain the problems your child is experiencing as well as discussing how you can work together to stop him/ her bullying others.
- Regularly check with your child how things are going at school.
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement when he/she is co-operative or kind to other people.

### **If your child is experiencing any form of electronic bullying:**

- Ensure your child is careful whom they give their mobile phone number and e-mail address to.
- Check exactly when a threatening message was sent and take appropriate action.

### **Strategies to Reduce Bullying**

The school will adopt a range of strategies to prevent and reduce bullying, to raise awareness of bullying and support victims and bullies. Including:

- Co-operative group work
- Circle Time
- Circle of Friends
- The Support Group Approach/No Blame Approach
- Peer mediation
- Midday supervisor training.
- Buddy systems
- PSHE programmes.
- Self esteem workshops.

### **Confidentiality**

School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures are made.

It is very rare for a pupil to request absolute confidentiality. If they do, in situations other than those involving child protection issues, staff must make a careful judgement whether or not a third party needs to be informed.

This judgement will be based upon:

- The seriousness of the situation and the degree of harm that the pupil may be experiencing.
- The pupil's age, maturity and competence to make their own decisions.

Where it is clear that a pupil would benefit from the involvement of a third party, staff should seek consent of the pupil to do so. If appropriate, staff might inform the third party together with the pupil. Unless clearly inappropriate, pupils will always be encouraged to talk to their parent/guardian.

An underlying principle in supporting pupils in our school is that all children are listened to sensitively and objectively and all incidences of bullying will be taken seriously.

## **Support for Pupils who Experience Bullying**

### **If you are being bullied:**

- Tell an adult or somebody you trust what has happened straight away
- Get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- Try to stay calm and look as confident as you can
- Be firm and clear ~ look them in the eye and, if possible, tell them to stop and tell them how you feel.

### **After you have been bullied**

- Tell a teacher or another adult you trust within school
- Tell your family
- If you are scared to tell a teacher or adult on your own, ask a friend to go with you
- Keep on speaking until someone listens and does something to stop the bullying
- Don't blame yourself for what has happened.

### **When you are talking to an adult about bullying be clear about:**

- What has happened to you
- How often it has happened
- Who was involved
- Who saw what was happening
- Where it happened
- What you have done about it already.
- If you experience bullying by mobile phone text messages or e-mail tell a friend, parent or teacher
- Be careful who you give your mobile phone number or e-mail address to
- Make a note of exactly when a threatening message was sent.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be evaluated and updated, using the views of pupils and staff to make changes and improvements, during the Summer Term of 2013 or before in light of new legislation.

**Signed:**

**Date:**