

Ickleford Primary School

Anti - Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell someone and be confident that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We encourage children's sense of responsibility towards each other and emphasise that if *anyone* knows that bullying is happening, they are expected to tell the staff.

We believe that everybody has the right to be treated with respect. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying, and to help children who are bullying to learn different ways of behaving. Bullying will not be tolerated at Ickleford Primary School

Definitions

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour. It may be repeated low-level incidents, or one-off extreme incidents involving one or more aggressors. Bullying results in pain and distress to another.

Main types of bullying

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (eg hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any other use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber all areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse; mis-use of mobile phones to threaten or intimidate by text messaging and calls

Objectives

- to ensure that all children, parents, staff and governors have an understanding of what bullying is
- to ensure that bullying is taken seriously by all members of the school community. Children and parents should be assured that bullying will be dealt with effectively when it is reported
- to ensure that all children, parents and staff follow the school's procedures if bullying occurs

Signs and Symptoms

A child **may** indicate by signs of behaviour that s/he is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should be investigated if a child:

- is frightened of walking to and from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school
- begins truanting
- becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens to run away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to underachieve in school work
- has possessions go "missing"
- asks for money or starts to steal money (to give to bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and investigated.

Procedures

- report bullying incidents to an adult. Class teacher and headteacher must be informed
- the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and stopped quickly
- record incidents in the incident file in the headteacher's office
- the child/ren bullying are asked to make a genuine apology
- the school behaviour policy is followed to impose sanctions. In serious cases, internal or external exclusions will be considered
- staff will be immediately informed of any bullying incidents
- parents will be notified either by class teacher or headteacher
- if necessary and appropriate, police/community support officers will be consulted
- the school supports all children involved and aids reconciliation

Prevention

We work hard to prevent any forms of bullying. The following may be used:

- establish school rules which demonstrate caring behaviour, and ensure they understood by all children
- PSHE teaching
- SEAL programme
- Circle time
- School council
- Assemblies
- Anti-bullying weeks – raising awareness

Helpful Organisations

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)

0808 800 5793

www.ace-ed.org.uk

Kidscape parents helpline (Mon-Fri 10-4)

0845 1 205 204

www.kidscape.org.uk

Bullying Online

0808 800 2222

www.bullying.co.uk

Bullying Incident Record Sheet

Completed by

Name:

Role:

Date:

Name and role of individual/s making the allegation e.g. pupil, parent/carers, midday supervisory assistant:

Form of referral e.g. verbal report, letter, phone call, witness statement, targeted child seeking support:

Details gathered to date:

Action taken to date:

Date:

Signed: