

At Gilthwaites First School we believe that all pupils have a right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. We promote good behaviour. It is made clear that bullying is a form of anti social behaviour.

What is bullying?

Bullying can be described as being a deliberate act done to cause distress solely in order to give a feeling of power, status or other gratification to the bully.

Bullying can take different forms. It can be:

a) Physical

A child can be physically punched, kicked, hit, spat at etc.

b) Verbal

This can take the form of name calling or using threatening language. It may be directed towards gender, ethnic origin, physical/social disability, personality etc.

c) Psychological

Excluding a child from group play, refusing to talk to or even acknowledge a child etc.

d) Damage to property or theft

A child may have his/her property damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used in order that the child hands over property over to the bully.

What are the school's strategies to minimise bullying?

- a) School has a regular programme of PSHCE in class and in assemblies which deals with issues such as bullying.
- b) Regular circle time/class discussions address friendship/playtime issues.
- c) Peer support is strongly emphasised e.g. Y5 'buddies' for the youngest and play workers to help others.

What can children do if they are being bullied?

- a) Tell a teacher or another adult in school

- b) Tell your family
- c) Take a friend with you if you are scared to tell someone by yourself
- d) Keep telling people until someone listens
- e) Don't fight back it will make things worse
- f) Don't blame yourself for what has happened

What can children do if they know someone is being bullied?

- a) Don't rush over and take the bully on
- b) Do let a teacher or other member of staff know
- c) Do try and be a friend to the person being bullied
- d) Don't be made to join in
- e) Do try to help the bully stop bullying

How parents can help.

We ask parents to:

- a) Look out for unusual behaviour in your child - e.g. they may suddenly not want to come to school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work of their usual standard
- b) Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with etc.
- c) If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform school immediately. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- d) If a child has bullied your child please do not approach that child or their family before or after school but inform school immediately
- e) Please advise your child not to fight back as it can make matters worse
- f) Tell your child that it is not their fault that they are being bullied
- g) Make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help
- h) If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately and sensitively.

How the school responds to specific allegations of bullying

- a) Children will know who to talk to in the first instance. This will

usually be their class teacher, but could also be another teacher, a support assistant, a lunchtime supervisor or a fellow pupil.

- b) The class teacher or head teacher takes steps to discuss the problem with the bully or bullies to establish the situation and talk through any issues. An early resolution is sought using these tactics.
- c) Both the bullied and the bullying parties are informed that the situation is being monitored
- d) If there is no improvement, or further bullying occurs the parents of the bullying child will be contacted in order to come into school and discuss the problem.
- e) As a result of the discussion clear expectations will be laid down as to:
  - Expected behaviour and attitudes
  - Where the child should be at specific times of the day
  - Who they should keep away from
  - What are the arrangements for beginning/ending lessons, lunchtimes, starting and ending the dayThe precise arrangements will be determined by individual circumstances.
- f) Support will be given to the bullying child to raise their self esteem and develop appropriate social skills
- g) If further bullying takes place the parents and child will be informed that the bully may be excluded. This would be for a fixed term in the first instance.

This policy was drawn up by: J. Wood

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