

Huntspill Community Federation



ANTI - BULLYING POLICY



Lead Person: Derek Nevell
Committee: Welfare
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Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly & safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed & secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our two schools. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell & know that incidents will be dealt with promptly & effectively.

Bullying is among the top concerns that parents have about their children's safety & well-being at, & on the way to and from, school. Bullying is also a top concern of children & young people themselves. Bullying makes the lives of its victims a misery; it undermines their confidence & self-esteem, & destroys their sense of security. Bullying impacts on its victims' attendance & attainment at school, marginalises those groups who may be particular targets for bullies & can have a life-long negative impact on some young people's lives.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying may be defined as 'Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally'. Pupils are bullied for a variety of reasons — & for no reason. Specific types of bullying include: bullying related to race, religion or culture; bullying related to SEN or disabilities; bullying related to appearance or health conditions; bullying related to sexual orientation; bullying of young carers, looked-after children or otherwise related to home circumstances; sexist or sexual bullying.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching & non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching & non-teaching staff should know what the federation policy is on bullying, & follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils & parents should know what the federation policy is on bullying, & what they should do if bullying arises.

- We take bullying seriously. Pupils & parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he/she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs & that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing'
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually 'lost'
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home hungry (money/lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to the Headteacher.
2. In all cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by the Headteacher.
3. In serious cases parents should be informed & will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated & the bullying stopped quickly.
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. In serious cases, exclusion will be considered
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled

3. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

We will use a range of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role-plays)
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

We acknowledge the support of 'Kidscape' in writing this policy.

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.

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