



OWLSMOOR PRIMARY

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Status of Policy	Date
Owlsmoor In-house	
Reviewed	Annually
Policy written	Sep 2011
Last reviewed by governors	21st September 2021
Review due	21st September 2022

Anti Bullying Policy

This policy has due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act.

This anti-bullying policy demonstrates the schools commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) Article 19 (protection from all forms of violence).

Statement of Intent

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our school.

We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to TELL the staff.

What is Bullying?

It is important to have an open and agreed definition of bullying. The Scottish Council for Research in education defines bullying as follows:

“Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else. To do this, the bully has to have some sort of power over the victim, a power not always recognisable to the teacher.”

There are many definitions of bullying, but most have three things in common:

- it is deliberately hurtful behaviour
- it is repeated, often over a period of time
- it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying can take many forms, but four main types are:

- physical - hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal - name calling, insulting, racist remarks
- indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups
- cyber – use of internet, social networking, texts in a negative unpleasant way.

However, if two pupils of equal power or strength have an occasional fight or quarrel, this is not bullying.

Aims

At Owlsmoor we aim to:

- provide a safe and happy environment for all children
- show that we are a caring school in that we will respond to all cases of bullying immediately and consistently
- investigate fully all cases of bullying, to assess the situation carefully and with fairness to all concerned
- make the prevention and tackling of bullying a high priority within the school with a clear commitment from the Headteacher, governors and staff
- promote school values which reject bullying behaviour and promote cooperative behaviour
- involve the whole school community in the implementation of this school policy on bullying
- use the school curriculum to raise awareness of bullying
- encourage a culture in school where it is fully accepted that pupils tell staff if they are being bullied
- make every attempt to protect children against possible reprisals.

Objectives of this Policy

- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and 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 or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and 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
- begs to be driven to school
- 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 starving (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
- bedwetting

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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff. All incidences of bullying are logged so that patterns of behaviour can be monitored.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff on a separate form (see appendix 3).
3. In serious cases parents will be informed and asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Sanctions

Sanctions are used where bullying behaviour is clearly proven. Sanctions are tailored to respond to the incidents and the children involved, after discussion with the parents.

We operate the sanctions by:

- making it clear that we disapprove of bullying
- explaining clearly the punishment and why it is being given

In more serious cases, a pupil may be excluded permanently or for a fixed term. This action will involve the parents and governors on the Disciplinary Committee, and in the case of a permanent exclusion, the Local Authority (LA).

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

Parents are encouraged to refer to this policy if they have any concerns.

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with the School Council and the Governing Body on an annual basis

Appendices

- (1) Guidelines for parents
- (2) Guidelines for children
- (3) Bullying Incident Report form

Liz Cole
Updated annually
Last updated September 2021

Owlsmoor Primary School

BULLYING: Don't suffer in silence - Information for parents and families

All schools are likely to have some problems with bullying at one time or another. At Owlsmoor Primary School we aim to reduce and prevent bullying.

Bullying behaviour includes:

- name-calling and teasing
- physical violence
- threats
- isolating individuals from group activities
- cyber bullying

Parents and families have an important part to play in helping us deal with bullying.

First, discourage your child from using bullying behaviour at home or elsewhere. Show them how to resolve the difficult situations without using violence or aggression.

Second, watch out for signs that your child is being bullied, or is bullying others. Parents and families are often the first to detect that a problem exists. Don't dismiss it. Contact the school immediately if you are worried.

If your child is bullying other children

Many children may be involved in bullying other pupils at some time or other. Often parents are not aware that their child is involved in bullying.

Children sometimes bully others because:

- they don't know it is wrong
- they copy older brothers or sisters or other people in the family whom they admire
- they haven't learnt other, better, ways of mixing with their school friends
- their friends encourage them to bully
- they are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings
- they enjoy the feeling of power
- they are being or have been bullied themselves

To stop your child from bullying others:

- talk with your child; 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 class teacher; explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing; discuss with the teacher how you and the school can 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 cooperative or kind to other people

If your child has been bullied

- Reassure your child that he/she has done the right thing in telling you about the bullying.
- Calmly talk with your child about his/her experience.
- Make a note of what your child says - particularly who was said to be involved; how often the bullying has occurred; where it happened and what has happened.
- 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 class teacher to discuss the problems your child is experiencing.

Talking with teachers about bullying

- Try and stay calm - bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or maybe has 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.

Owlsmoor Primary School

BULLYING: Don't suffer in silence - Information for children

When you are being bullied:

- be firm and clear - look them in the eye and tell them to stop
- get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- tell an adult what has happened straight away.

After you have been bullied:

- tell a teacher or another adult in your school
- tell your family
- if you are scared to tell a teacher or an adult on your own, ask a friend to go with you
- don't blame yourself for what has happened.

When you are talking about bullying with an adult, 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.

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Child's name Year

Report of Bullying Incident

Have the parents been informed?.....

Parent's response :

Parent contact :.....

Telephone: Home:.....

Work:.....

Any further information or follow up:

Signed.....

Date.....

(Teacher in charge of enquiries)

Signature of Headteacher :.....

Date.....

(The school processes any personal data collected on this form in line with its data protection policy. Further details can be found in the school's workforce privacy notice.)