



Red Rose Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved by: A Brinton - Headteacher
J Lumley - Chair of Governors

Last reviewed on: September 2022

Next review due by: September 2023 - to be reviewed annually by the Curriculum & Standards Committee

Our school, Red Rose Primary School, believes that bullying-whether between child and child, adult and child or adult and adult-is an inappropriate social interaction which can have a long term damaging effect upon both the victim and the perpetrator. Our school recognises that bullying is a major concern for many pupils, parents and teachers and that it can have an impact on school attendance and school performance. It is the responsibility of **all** within school to take incidents of bullying seriously.

As a Rights and Respecting School the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are fundamental to our practice. We ensure that the following UNICEF principals apply:

- The best interests of the child are a priority (Article 3)
- Children have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated, in body or in mind (Article 19)
- Children have the right to be safe (Article 37)

Definition:

Bullying can be defined as the intentional abuse of power by an individual or group in relation to another individual or group with the intention of causing distress. The bullying may be physical, sexual, verbal or psychological in nature. It may occur frequently or infrequently and it should be taken seriously even if it has only occurred on a few occasions. In more serious instances, bullying may be viewed as child abuse, whether this occurs between an adult and child or a child and a child.

Not all aggressive behaviour is bullying. Particularly in younger children, behaviour which appears to be bullying may be exhibited without the intention or awareness that it causes distress.

Attitude Towards Bullying

Bullying is an extremely complex phenomenon which evokes a variety of responses, many of which are unproductive and may actually contribute towards its continuation:

- Many children see adults as powerless to stop bullying and therefore do not report it when it occurs.
- Many children view bullying as a normal but distressing part of school life.
- Many children and their parents see bullying as part of the ritual which takes place in school, especially when transferring from one phase to the next.
- There is a concern on the part of some parents that schools are ineffective at dealing with bullying.

Where these attitudes exist, they must in themselves be addressed as bullying and be tackled accordingly.

The Effects Of Bullying

Bullying, or the fear of being bullied affects many people, both children and adults. Research suggests that approximately half of the mothers with children at school viewed bullying as the worst problem their child was likely to face at school.

Children who observe or hear about bullying may live in fear that it will be their turn next. Children who are bullied or live in fear of being bullied may attempt to avoid school, find it hard to concentrate on the curriculum and consequently their educational performance will deteriorate. Children may even attempt to imitate bullying behaviour or join in it in order to avoid being bullied themselves. Bullying affects all children in all schools.

Entitlement

All children have the right to enjoy to the fullest possible extent the benefits of educational provision offered by the school. In order to maximise these benefits children need to be educated in an environment which:

- Is safe and caring
- Provides challenges which are non-threatening
- Encourages children to feel secure
- Values children's opinions and involves them, where appropriate, in the determining of school policy and rules – "Pupil Voice".
- Shows an awareness of children's individual needs and attempts to meet these.

Our school, Red Rose Primary, believes that when a child claims to have been bullied or is suspected of being bullied he/she is entitled to expect:

- That he/she will be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish the facts.
- That appropriate action will be taken to address the child's concerns and to ensure that there will be no recurrence.
- That the action the school intends to take will be made clear to the child, and, if appropriate, to the child's parents.

Our school, Red Rose Primary, believes that children who are suspected of bullying another child are entitled to expect:

- That he/she will be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish the facts.
- To know what action the school can and will take.

- That they will be supported in dealing with any difficulty which has led to their behaviour.

The school, Red Rose Primary, believes that parents are entitled to expect that:

- Their child/children will be educated in an environment which is safe and caring and is not characterised by violence and intimidation.
- The school will take responsible steps to prevent bullying occurring.
- Any bullying incident which is reported will be investigated according to the school's guidelines.
- Any bullying incident which is found to have taken place will be dealt with in line with the school guidelines.

AIMS

The aim of our school is to prevent bullying within the school. At Red Rose Primary School we believe that we should take steps to ensure that:

- All staff, parents, pupils and governors at the school are aware that bullying is viewed seriously.
- A whole school policy for bullying has been developed.
- Guidelines are developed which make clear to pupils, parents and staff the steps which will be taken when bullying is reported.

Our school recognises that the ethos and atmosphere within a school can affect the amount of bullying which occurs. Our whole school policy on bullying is aware of the importance of:

- Encouraging and listening, a telling and believing environment where concerns of the individual are taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.
- Encouraging the views of the school as a community where each individual has an important and valued role to play.
- Minimising confrontations and encouraging mutual respect and concern for others feelings.
- Adults providing good models of behaviour and avoiding bullying behaviour.
- Developing a sense of common purpose between staff, pupils, parents and governors.
- Consistent use of clearly defined procedures for dealing with any inappropriate social behaviour.
- Providing a positive learning environment and appropriate curriculum for all pupils.
- Positive encouragement of co-operative behaviour.
- Rewarding non-aggressive behaviour.

Policy into Practice

The following signs may indicate that a child is being bullied:

- Cuts, bruises or aches and pains which are not adequately explained
- Clothes or possessions belonging to the child are damaged or lost.
- The child requests money or starts stealing.
- The child starts going to school or returning from school at an earlier or later time.
- The child starts taking different routes to school.
- The child starts to refuse to go outside at break times or refuses to stay at school for school dinners.
- The child requests to change class or school.
- Reluctance to attend school.

Symptoms of stress:

Any marked change in a child's behaviour, especially in well-established patterns of behaviour may indicate that the child is under stress:

- The child's behaviour may become immature, reverting to a previous behaviour such as thumb sucking or tantrums.
- The child may become withdrawn, clingy, moody, aggressive, unco-operative or non-communicative.
- The ability to concentrate may diminish and school performance may deteriorate
- There may be sleep or appetite problems.

In some cases, bullying may be a cause of stress. But in other cases, it may be family difficulties, drug abuse or some other problem may be the cause. Whatever the cause, sensitive enquiries need to be carried out and help made available to the child.

Staff members confronted by bullying:

- Deal with it promptly.
- Create the right atmosphere.
- Talk to the bully in general terms.
- Talk to the person being bullied in general terms.
- Listen sympathetically and ask open questions.
- Inform the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.
- Investigate, take notes and see witnesses individually.
- Keep parents of those involved informed.
- Monitor the situation/withdraw privileges/create a structure approach to free time sessions.

- Listen, take action, record and follow up at all times.

Children who are bullied:

- Tell someone.
- Know that your story will be listened to sympathetically.
- Tell them to stop.
- Know that action will be taken as soon as you report your situation.
- Be honest.
- Keep asking for help from the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher so that it will stop.

Parents of children who are being bullied:

- Ask to see the school's policy on Bullying.
- Share your concerns as soon as possible – Meet and Greet Sessions/end of the school collection points/breakfast handover.
- Establish the facts by talking to your child.
- Contact the school so that your concerns can be raised.
- Keep in regular contact with the school during and after the allegations have been investigated.
- Do not encourage aggressive behaviour in response to the bullying.

Children who are bullying:

- Know that bullying is not tolerated in school.
- Know that your side of the story will be listened to carefully.
- Know that your parents will be informed once the facts are known.
- Remember that the situation will be monitored carefully.
- Be sure that, if you have been found to be bullying, then sanctions will be put into place until you can show that your behaviour has improved.
- Be honest.
- Ask for help.