



Limehurst Primary School Anti-bullying Policy

Last Updated: February 2020

Next Review: February 2021

Senior Leader Responsible for Policy: Mr I Wilson

Introduction

The school will provide a secure, caring community where everyone can learn their own self-worth in an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect and co-operation.

We intend the school to be a happy and enjoyable place to work, which will provide the opportunity for every child and adult to fulfil their potential.

We will encourage children to become confident, independent learners who are able to contribute positively to the school and the community in which they live so they can take their full place in society secure as individuals, whilst able to respect the needs and values of others.

In line with this statement:

- All bullying, of any sort, is therefore unacceptable.
- Pupils who experience bullying will be supported.
- We recognise the effects that bullying can have on pupils' feelings of worth and on their school work, and the school community will actively promote an anti-bullying environment.

Aim

- To express our belief that all pupils should be included fully in the life of the school.
- To provide a learning environment free from any threat or fear, which is conducive to the achievement of individual aspirations.
- To reduce and to eradicate, wherever possible, instances in which pupils are made to feel frightened, excluded or unhappy.
- To reduce and to eradicate, wherever possible, instances in which pupils are subject to any form of bullying.

- To respond effectively to all instances of bullying that are reported to us.
- To establish a means of dealing with bullying, and of providing support to pupils who have been bullied.
- To provide support for pupils who are accused of bullying, who may be experiencing problems of their own.
- To ensure that all pupils and staff are aware of the policy and that they fulfil their obligations to it.
- To meet any legal obligations which rest with the school.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School are responsible for determining the content of the policy and the Headteacher for implementation. Any determinations with respect to individual parents will be considered jointly by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying involves dominance of one person by another, or a group of others, is pre-meditated and usually forms a pattern of behaviour.

Bullying is therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period of time
- Difficult for victims to defend themselves against.

It can take many forms but the main types are:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking another's belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones/social networking sites (cyber bullying).

Some forms of bullying are attacks not only on the individual, but also on the group to which he or she may belong. Within school we will pay particular attention to:

- Racial harassment and racist bullying
- Sexual bullying
- The use of homophobic language
- Bullying of pupils who have special educational needs or disabilities.

Creating an Anti-bullying climate in school

Our school's Behaviour and Rewards Policy explains how we promote positive behaviour in school to create an environment where pupils behave well; where pupils take responsibility for each other's emotional and social well-being; and where they include and support each other. Our aim is to create a climate where bullying is not accepted by anyone within the school community.

Our curriculum is used to:

- Raise awareness about bullying and our anti-bullying policy.
- Increase understanding for victims and help build an anti-bullying ethos.
- Teach pupils how constructively to manage their relationships with others.

Bullying will not be tolerated and we make this clear in the information we give to pupils and parents when they join our school.

Posters around school will tell pupils what to do if they are bullied, or see others being bullied, and about Childline and other sources of confidential help.

Our School Council offers a forum in which concerns about bullying can be discussed on a regular basis.

Responding to Incidents when they occur

Pupils who have been bullied should report this to:

- Their identified adult in school.
- Any member of staff (Teachers, Teaching Assistants or Midday Supervisor).
- Their class member of the school council.
- Their parents.
- A school friend.

Pupils who see others being bullied should report this to:

Any of the above.

Members of staff who receive reports that a pupil has been bullied should report this to

A member of the senior management team (Head, Associate Head or Senior Teacher).

Reports of bullying will be logged by:

The class teacher or member of SMT.

Where bullying is of a racist nature, we will report this to the Local Education Authority using the Racial Incident Report Form.

All reports will be taken seriously and will be followed up by the class teacher or member of the SMT.

When tougher measures are needed

If necessary, we will invoke the following range of sanctions that are in line with the school's Behaviour & Rewards Policy. These include

- Removal from the group(Within the class)
- Withdrawal of break and lunchtime privilege
- Withholding participation in school events that are not an essential part of the curriculum.
- In extreme cases we will also consider fixed term and / or permanent exclusion from school.

Our Responsibilities

Everyone within school is expected to:

- Act in a respectful and supportive way towards one another, and
- Adhere to and to promote the objectives of this policy.

Pupils are expected to:

- Report all incidents of bullying and suspected incidents that victims may be afraid to report.
- Support each other and to seek help to ensure that everyone feels safe and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school.

Parents can help by:

- Supporting our anti-bullying policy and procedures.
- Encouraging their children to be positive members of the school community.
- Discussing with their child's teacher any concerns that their child may be experiencing bullying or if they are unhappy in some other way.
- Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside of school.

Bullying Outside of the School Premises

Schools are not directly responsible for bullying that occurs off the premises but we know that bullying can occur outside the school gates and on journeys to and from school. The bullying may be done by pupils from our own school, by pupils from other schools or by people who are not at school at all. Where a pupil or parent tells us of bullying off the school premises we will:

- Talk to pupils about how to avoid or handle bullying outside of school.
- Talk to the Headteacher of another school whose pupils are bullying.
- Talk to the police.

The DfES says that, "exceptionally failure to take disciplinary steps to combat harmful behaviour outside the school might breach the school's common duty of care." Legal Services advise that schools can take disciplinary action against pupils for incidents that occur outside of school.