

Anti-Bullying

Policy

Longmoor Primary School
2009

No child should have to experience bullying of any kind and each of us involved in education has a role ensuring it is not tolerated. We know that tackling bullying in all its forms is central to ensuring the safety and welfare of all members of the school community. We also know that it is central to achieving the wider objectives of school improvement, raising attainment and attendance, and promoting equality and diversity. Our school needs to be at the heart of a tolerant and diverse community.

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at school.

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *LISTENING and TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying is repeated offensive action, words or behaviour.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures, excluded from discussion, activities etc)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence including stealing or damaging property or handing over property or money.
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality

- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of Internet, such as email & Internet chat room misuse
Use of social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Bebo
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. Camera & video facilities

Cyberbullying - using the Internet to pick on others - is a vast problem. Simply controlling access to school computers or blocking access to these websites is not enough to manage the problem. Therefore cyber bullying is treated as a school discipline matter, no matter when it occurs.

"It's important that pupils and staff are aware that publicly posted information can be read by anyone and can remain online for a long time." *Josie Fraser Childnet*

Bullying is not new, but some features of cyberbullying are different from other forms of bullying:

1. Cyberbullying can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been regarded as safe or personal.
2. The audience can be very large and reached rapidly.
3. People who cyberbully may attempt to remain anonymous causing extreme distressed for those being bullied.
4. Cyberbullying can take place between peers and across generations. Age or size is not important. Bystanders can also become accessories to the bullying; e.g by passing on a humiliating image.
5. Some instances of cyberbullying are known to be unintentional. It can be a result of not thinking or a lack of awareness of consequences.
6. Many cyberbullying incidents can themselves act as evidence. This is one of the reasons why it is important to know how to respond.

Cyberbullying and the law

- **Education law:** Bullying is never acceptable. The school community has a duty to protect all its members and provide a safe, healthy environment. A range of Education Acts and government initiatives highlight these obligations.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) outlines some legal powers which relate more directly to cyberbullying. Head teachers have the power 'to such an extent as is reasonable' to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off site. The EIA also provides a defence for school staff in confiscating items

such as mobile phones from pupils.

- **Civil and criminal law:** Although bullying is not a specific criminal offence in UK law, there are laws that can apply in terms of harassing or threatening behaviour, for example, or indeed menacing and threatening communications. In fact, some cyberbullying activities could be criminal offences under a range of different laws, including the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, which has both criminal and civil provision, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, section 127 of the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986

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. Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

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

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

What we will do to discourage bullying behaviour

- Work with parents, pupils and non-teaching staff to support and report bullying of any kind.
- Ensure that all pupils recognise that bullying of any sort will not be tolerated.
- Encourage pupils to follow the school rules and be actively involved in creating their own class rules.
- Discuss issues of bullying with PSHE programme to:
 - Encourage discussion of feelings and experiences
 - Promote a positive anti-bullying ethos
 - Encourage a smooth transition from Y2 to Y3 and from Y6 to Y7
- Organise school routines to eliminate problem times e.g staggering playtimes.
- Infant staff to organise circle games and promote team games in P.E sessions and on the playground.

- Encourage older students to be protective of younger ones through monitor's lunchtime duties.
- Encourage friendship pairs/groups to support isolated pupils e.g circle of friends and listening partners.
- Use materials and resources, which promote the individual regardless of gender, ethnic origin, disability etc.
- Promote and encourage playground pals.
- Reassure the victims that they are not to blame and recognise their distress.
- Monitor and review the policy.

What can you do if you are being bullied?

- Speak to a teacher, teaching assistant, dinner supervisor or another child IMMEDIATELY.
- Use the "listening box" by the hall door to let someone know you are worried. A teacher will read all the messages regularly and offer to help.
- Tell your parents or an adult you can trust.
- If you see someone being bullied report it at once, it can be dealt with in confidence without you getting into trouble.

Procedures

- Report bullying incidents to staff
- In case of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
- The Bully may miss playtimes or lunchtimes and spend the time in the supervision room.
- In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
- The pupil may be excluded at lunchtime.
- The pupil may be excluded for a minor fixed period.
- The pupil may be excluded for a major fixed period.
- The pupil may be permanently excluded from school.
- Phones may be taken off the pupils and read if cyber bullying has been reported.
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.

The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.

An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place (see above.)
2. In serious and persistent cases, exclusion will be considered (See above.)
3. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
4. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

1 General advice on bullying/sources of help

**Anti-bullying Alliance
Anti-Bullying Network
Beat Bullying**

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org
www.antibullying.net
www.beatbullying.org

Email: info@beatbullying.org
Tel: 0845 338 5068

**Bullying UK
Bully.org
Kidscape
Bullying Online**

www.bullyingonline.org
www.bully.org
www.kidscape.org.uk
www.bullying.co.uk

2 Cyberbullying

**Chatdanger
Childnet International**

www.chatdanger.com
www.childnet-int.org

Email: info@childnet-int.org
Tel: 020 7639 6967

Miss Dorothy

www.missdorothy.com

3 Race, religion, culture and bullying

**Britkid
Coastkid
Parrotfish
Throwing Stones**

www.britkid.org
www.coastkid.org
www.parrotfish.co.uk
www.beyondbullying.com