

Kingsweston School

Anti-Bullying Policy



Introduction

Bullying is “behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, March 2014). Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. This includes the same inappropriate and harmful behaviours expressed via digital devices (cyberbullying) such as the sending of inappropriate messages by phone, text, through websites and social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet.

Aims and objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable. We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn. We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person’s responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school. This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

Forms of Bullying

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types of bullying including:

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture.
- Bullying related to appearance, special needs or physical/mental health conditions.
- Bullying related to sexual or gender orientation, sexist and sexual comments.
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances.
- Bullying via technology –“cyberbullying”

The role of governors

This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately. Governors set the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour. The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. Governors have access to data around bullying incidents and these have been analysed with regard to gender, age, potential disadvantage and ethnic background of all children involved in bullying incidents (both victims and perpetrators).

The role of staff

Staff members support all children in their class and establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying. Staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. Staff actively support anti-bullying strategies by teaching children directly about safeguarding issues and cyber-bullying, it is incorporated into our curriculum and as part of work around British Values. Information is shared with parents / carers to further develop families’ awareness of safeguarding issues on the internet and mobile devices.

If staff witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied immediately and set up systems to support both victim and perpetrator. A record of any bullying incident is made within the ABC log for the individual pupils involved and a record is entered in the bullying log, swift action by members of staff is an expectation. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the relevant leader, the member of staff informs the child’s parents / carers. Anti-bullying processes are monitored within the strands of the school by Assistant Heads and are further considered within Children of Concern processes. Bullying log books are analysed termly and data is shared within the Achievement Meeting cycle.

Involvement of Pupils

We will:

- Regularly canvas children and young people’s views on the extent and nature of bullying in an appropriate manner with reference to age and stage of development.
- Support pupils to learn how to express worries and anxieties, including those about bullying.
- Publicise the details of help lines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

The role of parents / carers

Parents and Carers who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's teacher immediately.

Links with other school policies and practices

This Policy links with a number of other school policies & practices including:

- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- e-Safety (Online Safety) and Acceptable Use Policies
- Curriculum Policy

Appendix:

Supporting Organisations and Guidance

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Beat Bullying: www.beatbullying.org
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- DfE: "Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies", and "Supporting children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools" March 2014:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- DfE: "No health without mental health": <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-health-withoutmental-health-a-cross-government-outcomes-strategy>
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- NDCS: www.ndcs.org.uk
- Childnet International: www.childnet.com
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk