

MEADFURLONG SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLY POLICY

January 2010

INTRODUCTION

- It is a government requirement that all schools have an anti-bullying policy. In 2003 Ofsted published *Bullying: effective action in secondary schools*. This was followed by a DfES guidance for schools under two headings: *Don't Suffer in Silence and Bullying – A Charter for Action*. This policy reflects this guidance.
- DfES guidance defines bullying as actions that are meant to be hurtful, and which happen on a regular basis. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (for example, being ignored or not spoken to).

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 without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.
- This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- We aim to make all those concerned 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.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

- The governing body supports the Headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school, The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and reports to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

- A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident can ask the chair of governors to look into the matter. The governing body responds within ten days of any request body notified Headteacher and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case, and report back to a representative of the governing body

THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER

- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The Headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.
- The Headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, The Headteacher may decide to use an assembly as the forum in which to discuss with the other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.
- The Headteacher ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receives sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- The Headteacher sets 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 ROLE OF TEACHER AND SUPPORT STAFF

- All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.
- Teachers keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class, and that they are aware of it in the school. If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will either investigate it themselves or refer it to the Learning Mentors. Teachers and Learning Mentors do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Headteacher, the teacher or learning mentor informs the child's parents.
- The Learning Mentors record all incidents of bullying that occur both in and out of class. We also record incidents that occur near the school, or on the children's way between school and home. Any adult who witnesses an act of bullying should inform the school so that the incidents can be recorded.
- When any bullying takes place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. Time is spent talking to the child who has bullied: explaining why his/her action was wrong,

and that child is encouraged to change his/her behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Headteacher, Learning Mentors and the Special Needs Co-ordinator. We then invite the child's parents into school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these discussions have proven ineffective, the Headteacher may contract external support agencies, such as the Social Services or Education Welfare Officer.

- All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.
- Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. They use drama, role play, stories etc. within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere. The school uses a strategy called 'Restorative Justice' which focuses on education rather than punishment.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

- Parents 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 class teacher or learning mentor immediately. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the Headteacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed in the school Prospectus.
- Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

THE ROLE OF PUPILS

- Pupils are encouraged to tell anybody they trust if they are being bullied, and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know.
- Pupils are invited to tell us their views about a range of school issues, including bullying, in the annual pupil questionnaire.
- Our school council has regular meetings at which concerns about bullying can be raised.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

- This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

- This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the Headteacher. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying or bullying directed at children with disabilities of special educational needs.
- This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Date: