

Anti Bullying Policy

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Hawthornden Primary School

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Anti-Bullying Policy

What is bullying?

It is not easy to give an exact definition of bullying as it can take many forms.

Bullying is an abuse of (assumed) power. People who are bullied are very upset when someone else uses strength or power to hurt them, either physically or emotionally or when they are intimidated or demeaned. They are likely to fear that this will happen again and feel powerless to stop it. Bullying is also a breach of children's rights under several articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is usually persistent and is often covert and is a conscious attempt to hurt, threaten or frighten someone.

Cyber-bullying is bullying behaviour that takes place via mobile phone or social media.

"**Bullying** ... can make you feel frightened, threatened, left out and hurt. Something only needs to happen once for you to feel worried or scared to go to school or other places you enjoy going to. Just because someone doesn't realise how hurtful their behaviour is doesn't mean it's not bullying" (Respectme)

Equalities - We use the legal definition of 'equalities' which gives protection to people who have specific characteristics - for example being gay, lesbian or bisexual or from a minority ethnic group or disabled or old. It also includes boys and girls and anyone undergoing gender change, as well as those of particular faith groups. The Equality Act 2010 defines these as 'protected groups'. Looked-after children, young carers and children and young people from poor backgrounds can also be included as equalities groups.

Bullying can be:-

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber - all areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse
- Mobile threats by text messaging and calls.

Everyone at Hawthornden Primary School is committed to providing a caring, friendly, nurturing and safe environment for all pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur we want all pupils to be confident and talk to a member of staff about matters of concern to them and we encourage our pupils to tell a member of staff, if they know that bullying is happening in our school.

We also expect our children to support one and other so that everyone feels safe and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school.

The Headteacher and Depute Head Teachers have overall responsibility for implementing and monitoring this policy and ensuring that full records are kept and logged.

Staff are well trained in our Behaviour Management and Nurturing Policy and incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively following school procedures with all allegations being taken seriously. We aim to support those who are bullied or discriminated against and work to support those who bully others and we do this using a range of methods and strategies.

Parents can help too by:

- Supporting our anti-bullying policy and reinforcing this at home
- 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
- Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside of school
- Speaking to the Head Teacher if their concerns are serious and ongoing

Policy into Practice

Curriculum for Excellence, in particular the Health and Well Being experiences and outcomes and programmes of work, help pupils understand what bullying is and how to deal with it.

Pupils will be taught the following procedure:-

- Children should initially tell the other person to stop the behaviour, as they don't like it
- If the behaviour continues, they should then say they will report the behaviour to an adult
- If the behaviour is repeated on another occasion, the pupil will go to an adult for help.

Concerns

In spite of our serious intent to eliminate bullying, there may be parents who feel that the school have not dealt effectively with incidents affecting their children. If having spoken to the Head Teacher they remain dissatisfied, they may seek further advice and assistance from the Council.

Useful websites

www.antibullying.net - an excellent website which provides a great deal of information

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/preventing-cyber-bullying/6131.html> - BBC video clip about cyber-bullying

<http://www.respectme.org.uk> - an excellent website for parents and staff to help prevent and deal with bullying

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

<http://www.childnet-int.org.uk>