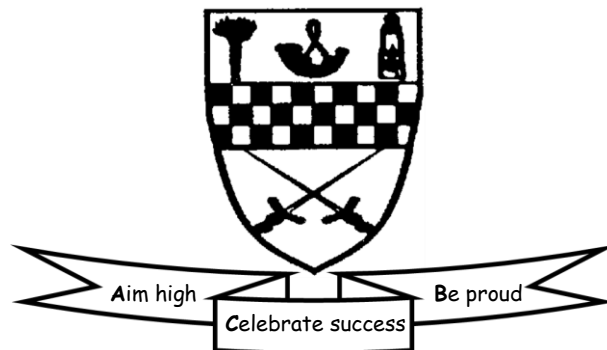


# Mauricewood Primary School

## Anti Bullying Policy



## **Introduction**

In Mauricewood we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn and achieve in a secure and relaxed atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and if it does occur everyone within the school community, pupils, staff and parents should be aware of how to deal with it.

## **What is Bullying?**

We consider bullying to have the following features:

- It is deliberately hurtful or aggressive behaviour
- It is repeated over a period of time
- It is difficult for those being bullied to stop the process

Bullying can be

- Physical - hitting, kicking, pushing or any use of violence
- Verbal - name calling, insulting, persistent teasing, racist remarks , homophobic remarks, sarcasm, humiliation,
- Indirect - excluding from groups, spreading harmful rumours, abusive text messages and emails

## **Why is it important to respond to bullying?**

Bullying hurts. It causes harm to the victim and the perpetrator. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect. Children who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. As a school we have the responsibility to respond effectively to bullying through our curriculum, ethos and by our response to incidents when they occur.

## **Responsibilities**

### **School/Staff**

- To ensure a safe environment for all
- To promote a positive culture
- To ensure all members of the community have access to and understand our policy on bullying
- To ensure that they take opportunities to discuss bullying in different curricular areas
- To look out for signs of bullying
- To encourage reporting
- To take reports seriously and deal with them consistently and as soon as possible
- To provide support and counselling for all involved
- To monitor incidents of bullying and effectiveness of policy

### **Pupils**

- To report bullying
- To look to use positive ways of resolving conflict
- To respect individual difference and the rights of others
- To support other pupils

### **Parents**

- To support children to use positive means of solving conflicts
- To discourage bullying behaviours
- To encourage children to speak out about bullying
- To look out for signs that their child is being bullied or is bullying others and work in partnership with the school to find a solution

## **Reducing Incidents of bullying**

As a school we engage in the following activities to reduce the likelihood of bullying behaviour

- Cool in School - a programme aimed at developing cool responses to conflict
- Bounce Back - an approach to developing emotional health
- Sexual Health and Relationship Education including Healthy Respect Programme
- Anti bullying messages in other curricular areas e.g. Drama, Social Studies
- Whole School Assemblies
- Negotiated Class Rules
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Buddying
- Circletime /Worry boxes/ Bubbletime/ Check In

## **Dealing with Incidents of bullying**

On dealing with incidents of bullying we observe the following principles:

- We take the allegation seriously
- We do not make premature assumptions
- All accounts are listened to fairly
- We make every effort to adopt a problem solving and restorative approach focussing on acknowledgement of the harm done and ways to repair it
- We support the children in new and more positive behaviours
- We arrange to follow up and check that the approach has been successful and unwanted behaviours have not resumed.

By using the above strategies we model positive ways of solving conflict, acknowledging and accepting responsibility for any harm caused and expressing a genuine desire to make things better through our actions. Sometimes reparation may involve sanctions but not always. If all involved feel that the problem has been solved in a positive way then victims do not have to worry about further contact with those who harmed them and tension is diffused.

Parents are kept informed about ongoing issues.

If after the above interventions we do not see an improvement and an end to bullying behaviours we will use our behaviour policy to impose consequences.

Depending on the circumstances these may be:

- Removal from groups
- Withdrawal of break and lunchtime privileges
- Withdrawal from school teams and activities
- Involvement of other professionals
- Further Parental Involvement
- Internal exclusion - working out with own class
- Exclusion from school for an appropriate period

### **Bullying outside school premises**

Although schools are not directly responsible for addressing instances of bullying which occur outside school premises we acknowledge that they have a serious effect on our pupils' emotional and physical wellbeing and we encourage children to report incidents and want to play a part in resolving them. We would do this by

- Speaking with parents concerned
- Discussing strategies to deal with out of school bullying with pupils
- Contacting other agencies who may support children if appropriate
- Contacting Head Teachers of other schools if their pupils were involved

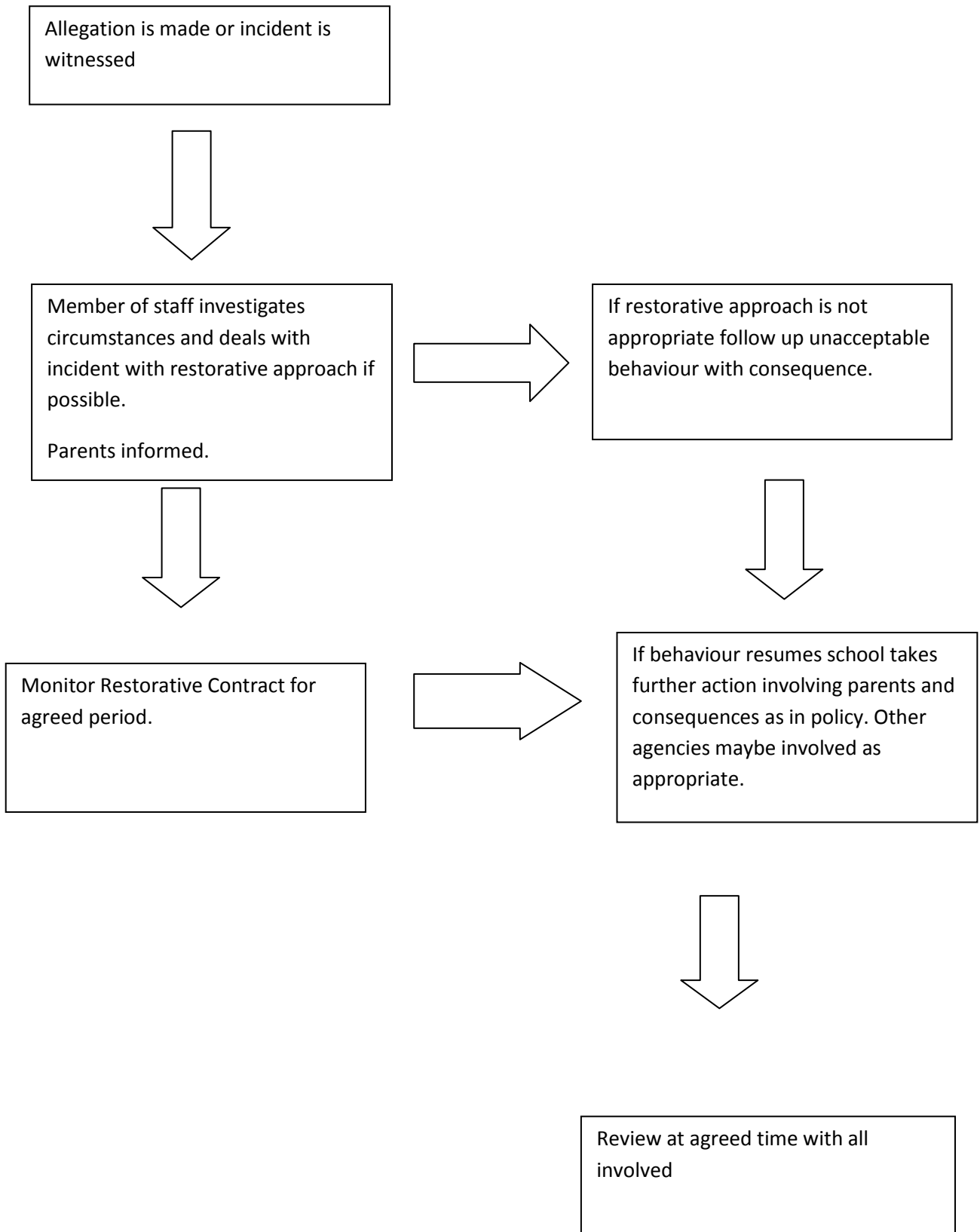
### **Recording**

Allegations of bullying and bullying incidents are recorded and monitored by Local Authority and Scottish Government.

### **Review**

Our Policy will be subject to regular review by staff, parents and pupils, including use of parent and pupil questionnaires.

## Procedures for Dealing with an incident of bullying:



Advice for Children who feel bullied.

Do not suffer in silence, report what has happened as soon as possible.

During a bullying incident pupils will be advised to use their Cool in School Strategies

- Stay calm and look as confident as they can- they might want to use their word shield
- Be firm and look the bully in the eye and tell them to stop
- Use the last chance warning
- Walk away from the situation

After they have been bullied pupils should

- Tell a teacher or adult in school
- Tell their family
- Take a friend with them if it helps them
- Not blame themselves for what has happened

In school the adult will ask them about the incident and they will need to know

- What has happened to them
- How often it has happened
- Who was involved
- Where it happened
- Who saw what happened

Parents should

- Talk to the child calmly about it and reassure them that telling was the right thing to do
- Make a note of what they say
- Explain that the child should report any further incidents to a teacher straight away
- Make an appointment to speak to a member of staff as soon as possible

## Children who have behaved in a bullying way

When after discussion we confirm a child has been bullying we will contact parents to discuss the issues. We will ask parents to

- Talk to their child and explain that bullying is wrong and makes others unhappy
- Meet with promoted staff in school to discuss how home and school can work together to stop bullying
- Talk to their child regularly about how things are going at school
- Give the child lots of praise and encouragement when they are being considerate and kind to others.



## Useful Websites

Anti Bullying Network	<a href="http://www.antibullying.net">www.antibullying.net</a>
Don't Suffer in Silence	<a href="http://www.dontsufferinsilence.com">www.dontsufferinsilence.com</a>
Childline: Bullying and How to Beat It	<a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/bullying">www.childline.org.uk/bullying</a>
Bullying at School Information	<a href="http://www.scre.ac.uk/bully">www.scre.ac.uk/bully</a>
Kidscape	<a href="http://www.kidscape.org.uk">www.kidscape.org.uk</a>
BBC's Bullying: A survival Guide	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/bully">www.bbc.co.uk/education/bully</a>
Bully on Line	<a href="http://www.successunlimited.co.uk">www.successunlimited.co.uk</a>