

Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

Every child at Husthwaite CE Primary School irrespective of ability, ethnic origin, gender or social background has the right to enjoy learning and social activity in school free from any intimidation. Our school will not tolerate bullying behaviour of any kind including unkind actions or remarks, verbal taunting and exclusion from groups. This ethos will be communicated throughout the school by the attitudes and actions of the school community. These are reflected in our,

- *school aims and values
- *school rules
- *circle times
- *PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship education)
- *collective worship

If any parent suspects that their child is being bullied the class teacher must be told immediately.

Aims

- To be aware of the quantity and particular nature of bullying that takes place in school (e.g. physical/name calling/racist abuse/homophobic bullying)
- To be aware of areas of the school that pose a threat to pupils and take appropriate actions to reduce threats
- To create a caring community where all children feel able to communicate their feelings and concerns not only to adults in the school but also to one another

In our school a bully is a child who deliberately and persistently causes distress to another child, or encourages somebody else to do so.

In our school bullying behaviour is persistent torment to another child that is either physical or emotional.

It could include:

- ***Physical harm***
- ***Name calling***
- ***Teasing***
- ***Threats of physical harm***
- ***Extortion***
- ***Exclusion***

Parents can play an important role in detecting potential bullying by being aware of the possible signs:

- ***Not wanting to go to school***
- ***Damage to clothes, books etc***
- ***Bruises and scratches***
- ***A decline in the standard of work***
- ***Becoming withdrawn, unhappy***
- ***Not sleeping***
- ***Bed wetting***

It is generally a combination of these signs, not necessarily one that may indicate a child is being bullied. If a parent suspects bullying it is vital that the school is informed as soon as possible. This would be the class teacher in the first instance.

Parents also need to prepare children for the day to day playground squabbles and disagreements that do not constitute bullying.

Children need to feel secure enough to report any incident to a member of staff.

All Staff (including support staff) play an important role in observing children around school and noting any changes in individual behaviour that may suggest problems with a child and their relationships in school. All staff have an important role in communicating the anti-bullying ethos of the school.

All reports of bullying will be taken seriously and will be investigated fully.

Course of action in response to the reporting of an incident of Bullying

- All staff will be ready to deal with any incident that is brought to their attention
- Staff will see separately the 'victim', 'bully' and any 'witnesses' in order to establish an accurate account of events. A written report (dated and signed) may be made if the incident is deemed to be serious. The Headteacher will always be alerted to the situation. Staff should aim to find out,
 - What happened?
 - Why did it happen?
 - Who was involved?
 - Where did the incident take place?
 - When did it occur?
 - How do you think we can resolve this?
- A no blame approach will be used when initiating discussion with both the 'victim' and 'bully'.
- If an act of bullying is found to have happened then the child will be given a **final warning** and the opportunity to talk about the situation with either the class teacher or Headteacher and parent's may be invited, or contacted via letter to inform them about the situation. Any repeat of the bullying behaviour will be dealt with appropriately and parents will be invited into school to talk about the situation. Any bullying behaviour that continues after a final warning may lead to exclusion for a fixed period of time.

The policy was agreed by all staff and Governors on _____
and will be reviewed in line with school development priorities.

Headteacher _____ Date _____

Chair of Governors _____ Date _____