



HOMELANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

ADOPTED BY THE FULL GOVERNING BODY ON.....November 2001

REVIEWED.....November 2005.....

REVIEWED.....04.03.08.....

REVIEWED.....25.05.10.....

REVIEWED.....03.12.13.....

Rationale

At Homelands Primary School we believe that all children have the right to be free from bullying. Our ethos promotes a caring, open environment with an emphasis on developing good relationships. We acknowledge the need to be constantly alert to the presence of bullying. We will always investigate incidents and if bullying is found to have taken place, take action to prevent or reduce the possibility of it happening again. Persistent bullying behaviour is dealt with through the steps in our behaviour policy.

What is bullying?

We consider bullying to be:

- deliberately hurtful (done with intention)
- repeated over a period of time.
- difficult for victims to defend themselves against because the bully may be more powerful.

It can take many forms but three main types are:

- **physical** - hitting, kicking repeatedly
- **verbal** – coercion, name calling, repeatedly. These remarks may be related to colour, ethnic origin, size or disability etc.
- **indirect** - spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding people from groups, deliberately damaging belongings, sending malicious text messages, e-mails or social networking.

What does the school do to prevent bullying ?

We believe that we can be proactive in preventing bullying and do the following:

- develop a positive ethos within the school
- develop self esteem in all pupils
- ensure good supervision at all break times
- support a peer mediation and play buddy scheme
- listen to children
- make bullying a regular topic for discussion in class and in assemblies through the use of the SEAL programme
- ensure our curriculum explores issues and involves children in discussing different points of views and problem solving
- give the children strategies to deal with different situations
- involve the Child Assault Prevention Group in a rolling programme

What can parents do to prevent bullying?

- be alert for signs of distress which may be symptomatic of bullying, e.g. reluctance to come to school, being withdrawn and anxious, deterioration of work, desire to remain with adults
- take an active interest in your child's friendships and social life
- always contact the school if you think your child is being bullied. Keep a written record (who, what, where, when, how)

- do not encourage your child to hit back, it may make matters worse
- be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if your child is not involved
- talk to your child about bullying behaviour to ensure his/her behaviour makes the school a happy place for other children

We encourage children to:

- stay calm and look confident, look the person in the eye and firmly and loudly tell them to stop
- remove yourself from the situation when you are able
- tell an adult what happened straight away

More positively encourage your child to have friends, and give them opportunities to build on these friendships outside of school. A child who has friends is less likely to be bullied.

What should you do if you think your child is being bullied?

Step 1

Talk first of all to your child's teacher. It will be helpful to remember your child's teacher may be unaware of any bullying or may have a conflicting story. It is important to remain calm and are specific about what your child says has happened – names, dates, times

Ask the teacher to report back to you about what they have found out and what they have done

Step 2

If the bullying persists contact the headteacher who will investigate the situation and report back to you. From this stage all incidents will be recorded.

Keep in touch with the school to ensure the bullying has stopped.

Note

Parents should not approach children or other parents in an attempt to sort out a bullying issue themselves.

What will we do if bullying takes place?

- we will involve the parent of both the bully and the victim
- we will devise a plan of action
- we will ensure all staff are alerted to the problem
- we will ensure incidents are recorded
- we will monitor the situation and set review dates to ensure the bullying has stopped
- if there is evidence of bullying continuing we will follow the steps in our behaviour policy

Monitoring the policy

Through the health and safety committee the governing body will monitor the incidence of bullying on an annual basis. The policy will be reviewed every two years and parents will be consulted.