

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Written Autumn 2020 Review Autumn 2023

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

It is easy to accuse a child of bullying, however bullying is the **repeated** use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be but is not limited to:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

If your child is being bullied:

- Calmly talk with your child about his/her experience.
- Make a note of what your child says - particularly who was said to be involved; how often the bullying has occurred; where it happened and what has happened.
- Reassure your child that he/she has done the right thing to tell you about the bullying.
- **Explain to your child that should any further incidents occur he/she should report them to a teacher immediately.**
- Make an appointment to see your child's class teacher.
- Explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing.

Talking with teachers about bullying:

- Try and stay calm - bear in mind that the teacher may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident.
- Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened - give dates, places and names of other children involved.
- Make a note of what action we intend to take.
- Ask if there is anything you can do to help your child or the school.
- Stay in touch with us; let us know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

If you are not satisfied:

Families who feel that their concerns are not being addressed appropriately by our school might like to consider the following steps:

- Make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Headteacher; keep a record of the meeting.
- If this does not help, write to the Chair of Governors explaining your concerns and what you would like to see happening.
- In the last resort, contact the CEO of the Dales Academies Trust

If your child is bullying other children:

Many children may be involved in bullying other pupils at some time or other.

Children sometimes bully others because:

- They don't know it is wrong (particularly with younger children).
- They are copying older brothers or sisters or other people in the family whom they admire.
- They haven't learnt other, better ways of mixing with their school friends.
- Their friends encourage them to bully.
- They are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings.

To stop your child from bullying others

Talk with your child; explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes other children unhappy.

- Discourage other members of your family from bullying behaviour or from using aggression or force to get what they want.
- Show your child how he/she can join in with other children without bullying.
- Make an appointment to see your child's class teacher, explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing; discuss with the teacher how you and the school can stop him/her bullying others.
- Regularly check with your child how things are going at school.
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement when he/she is co-operative or kind to other people.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.

2. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
3. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
4. In serious cases, exclusion will be considered

Prevention

We will use different methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these will include:

- Each class producing their class rules which they all sign in agreement.
- Following the Zones of Regulation to help children take responsibility for their emotions and behaviour
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying as part of Personal Social, Health, Citizenship education.
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role-plays)
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Having a variety of playtime games to occupy our children
- Children being encouraged to put worries in the worry boxes in each class
- Encouraging open discussion in circle time and through buddies.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.

Agreed by Governors:

Signed: _____ Date: _____