

Botton Village School Bullying Policy

October 2009

1. Anti-Bullying Statement:

The school is committed to do its utmost to ensure that pupils receive an education free from bullying. It will continue to develop and implement policies that have regard to DCSF guidance, "Safe to Learn: Embedding antibullying work in schools." Teachers encourage parents to communicate swiftly concerning upset pupils.

What constitutes bullying?

Bullying can be described as behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

The following can constitute bullying:

- Physical assault – pushing, kicking, punching or hitting.
- Taking or damaging belongings.
- Name calling, taunting, teasing, mocking, making offensive comments.
- Threatening, intimidation.
- Gossiping, spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- Unfairly picking on people, being unkind to people.
- Forcing people to do something against their will.
- Sending inappropriate, offensive or degrading texts, emails or images.

Specific types of bullying can be related to race, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, home circumstances, special needs, appearance and health conditions.

It is important to be aware that some pupils may be more vulnerable than others; also to be aware that children's relationships can vary tremendously. Children can be the best of friends one day and at loggerheads the next. Parents and staff therefore need to be aware that temporary breakdowns in relationships do not necessarily constitute bullying.

2. Aim:

We aim to prevent any incidents of bullying occurring at any time.
Bullying will not be tolerated.

We intend to:

- Provide a school environment in which children feel safe and able to express themselves without fear or intimidation.
- Maintain a co-operative ethos in which the school, the children and the parents work together to prevent bullying.
- Help children to gain the personal qualities and self-esteem needed to minimise the risk of bullying.
- Identify children at risk and respond positively to their needs.
- Respond firmly to incidents of bullying.

3. **Procedures for Staff:**

- Staff should be watchful and observe relationships. Where appropriate, mention should be made in the weekly meetings. If appropriate, an incident slip should be completed and given to the class teacher or a note should be made in the incident book.
- There should be appropriate supervision of pupils during unstructured time.
- Staff should be punctual for lessons and break duties.
- Children should be made aware and periodically reminded, that they should report incidents and they may do so to any teacher.
 - The teacher must alert the class teacher.
 - Where appropriate the class teacher will inform the teachers' meeting or the College of Teachers and make an entry in a pupil's file.
 - In serious and persistent cases, the Designated Person for Child Protection will be informed

4. **School procedure for dealing with incidents of bullying;**

What action should be taken if a pupil has been bullied?

- **Stop the incident!**
Swift response is essential.
- a) Confirm that the child is not physically injured. If the child is physically injured, deal with the injury immediately.
 - b) Show concern and support for the victim (in the presence of the bully if appropriate).
 - c) Try to reassure the victim.
 - d) Wait for the victim to become calm before trying to find out what happened, and then take time to listen carefully and establish the facts and factors involved.
Bystanders may provide important background information.
 - e) Tell both parties that the matter will be dealt with and that other teachers and the parents of those involved will be informed.
 - f) Talk over the incident, the problems behind it, and possible solutions with the victim and the bully.
 - g) Ensure appropriate written reports are made on incident slips to the class teacher or in the incident book.

What action should be taken if a pupil bullies?

- a) Make it absolutely clear that the behaviour is totally unacceptable to everyone – staff and children.
- b) Remind the pupils that they too must share the responsibility for caring for others; allowing something to happen is actually participation, albeit passive.
- c) Involve all parties – bully, victim and neutrals.
- d) If appropriate, state the sanctions that will be imposed if the bullying continues.
- e) Ensure everyone has an understanding of the situation and will take action immediately should there be a reoccurrence of the behaviour. Ensure appropriate written reports are made on incident slips to the class teacher or in the incident book.

5. Guidelines for informing parents

All parents should be consulted if there are any concerns about their children. They may be able to help solve problems or provide information that could prevent serious incidents occurring.

The parents of the victim and the bully should be informed if:

- a) a physical injury has occurred.
- b) the incident involved a number of children bullying the same child.
- c) an older child is bullying a much younger one or vice versa.
- d) the victim is very distressed and frightened.
- e) the bullying is repeated.

The College of Teachers should be told that parents have been informed.

6. Sanctions**Physical assault**

- Pupils who have been involved in a physical assault on others may be excluded from school for a 'cooling off' period.
- Parents of both parties should be informed.
- There should be an interview with bully and parents before re-instatement.
- There should be an interview with both parties and appropriate apologies made.
- Serious or repeated incidents could result in the bully being referred to the College of Teachers and to possible permanent exclusion.

All other cases of bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school behaviour policy.