



Federation of Savile Town CE (C) & Thornhill Lees CE (VC) Infant & Nursery Schools Anti- Bullying Policy 2024

'In our schools we celebrate our faith diversity and provide a safe environment where our children are happy to learn. We are kind, caring and respectful to others. We aim to inspire future generations of our school and community to become lifelong learners.'

Aims

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils and members of staff, so they can learn and work in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, victims should be able to tell, and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a senior member of staff. Serious concerns should be reported directly to the headteacher.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression (physical or verbal) with the intention of hurting another person physically or emotionally. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. It should also be explained to children that bullying can take place involving someone they think is a friend. Bullying is usually defined as behaviour that is repeated.

Bullying can be:

- 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 focusing 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

Objectives of this Policy

- To ensure all governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is.
- To ensure all governors and teaching and non-teaching staff know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- To ensure all pupils and parents know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- To ensure that as a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- To confirm that bullying of any kind 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
- has obvious personality changes

- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

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

Peer-on-Peer abuse

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as child on child or peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment.

Staff are expected to:

- make it clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
- challenge behaviours (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms and lifting up skirts.

Procedures

1. Encourage the reporting of bullying incidents to staff immediately it happens. Particularly with young children, it is important to deal with incidents as they happen to keep them low level whenever possible
2. If the case is more serious, parents will be informed, and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
3. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
4. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
5. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
6. 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 sanctions may take place.
- 2) Whenever possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 3) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- 4) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered

The role of the Parents/carers:

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied should:

- Speak initially to the child's class teacher
- Speak with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher if the bullying carries on

- Share concerns with school staff rather than discuss it with another child's parents especially if their child might be involved
- Parents/carers should support the school's anti-bullying policy and do all they can to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school community.

Prevention

We will use Jigsaw materials regularly throughout school in Assemblies, Circle Times and at other appropriate times in order to develop our children's understanding of bullying and their ability to prevent it. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of class rules
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- having 'worries' as an agenda item on our School Council Meetings