



Pattishall Primary is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

Every child should be able to learn in an environment free from bullying of any kind and in which they feel safe and supported. At Pattishall, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. **Bullying of any kind is unacceptable.** If an incident does occur, all children should be confident in knowing 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 an adult.

What is Bullying?

Our school definition of bullying is **'sustained behaviours by an individual or group that deliberately hurts others, causing emotional or physical harm.'** Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

Verbal: Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

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

Cyber: All areas of internet, such as: email & internet chat room misuse; mobile threats by text messaging & calls; or misuse of associated technology eg. camera & video facilities

Sexual: Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments

Homophobic: Because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. No child deserves to suffer the pain and indignity that bullying can cause. It is recognised that it can impact negatively on educational experiences and the wider development of the child.

Objectives

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, children and parents will understand what constitutes bullying.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All children and parents will know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying happens.

The Curriculum at Pattishall CE Primary School

The issue of bullying is addressed through the curriculum. Children will have opportunities to develop their understanding of the nature of bullying, to explore their own and others attitudes to bullying and to develop the skills to deal with bullying through PSHE, Circle Time and assemblies. Other school activities, such as taking part in Anti-Bullying Week activities, interviews/questionnaires with children about feeling safe, School Council and using ICT resources such as 'thinkuknow?' also help children to understand that bullying is unacceptable.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. These **could** include:

- making changes to their usual routine
- being frightened of walking to or from school
- being reluctant/unwilling to go to school
- beginning to truant
- becoming withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starting to stammer
- crying themselves to sleep at night or having nightmares
- feeling ill in the morning
- beginning to do poorly in school work
- coming home with clothes torn or books damaged
- having dinner or other monies continually 'lost'
- having a number of unexplained cuts or bruises
- becoming aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- bullying other children or siblings
- not eating
- being frightened to say what's wrong
- giving improbable excuses for any of the above
- being afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- being 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.

Procedures

Staff will respond promptly and effectively to any issues of bullying. As a school we take bullying seriously. Children and parents will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

- Children and parents are regularly encouraged to report bullying incidents to staff
- Bullying behaviour or threats of bullying are investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- All bullying incidents are recorded by staff
- Parents are informed and asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem
- Children who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. An attempt will be made to help the bully/bullies change their behaviour. As a result they will be given support and strategies to resolve differences in a more constructive way.

- Children who have bullied will have their behaviour monitored in the classroom and playground until we are confident that their behaviour has changed.
- Children who have been bullied will receive ongoing support.
- All parental concerns will be followed up irrespective of the outcomes of the investigation.

Outcomes

- All incidents of bullying will be dealt with in line with the Behaviour Policy.
- If possible, the children involved will be reconciled.
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- Parents who raise issues will receive feedback.

Children who have been bullied will be supported as appropriate by:

- having an immediate opportunity to discuss the incident(s) with an appropriate member of staff
- being reassured
- being offered support
- raising their self-esteem and confidence
- being encouraged to report further issues
- arranging a review date/time to discuss outcomes and appropriate follow-up
- have external support, if appropriate

Children who have bullied will be supported by:

- having an immediate opportunity to discuss the incident(s) with an appropriate member of staff
- establishing what behaviour was inappropriate and why the child became involved
- establishing clearly what behaviour needs to change, and how the school can support this change (linked to Behaviour policy)

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

This policy is linked directly to the following:

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Curriculum policies
- SEN Policy