



Anti-Bullying Policy

Further References

*Policies: Health and Safety
Policy for Child Protection
Safe Use of the Internet
Behaviour and Discipline*

*Documents: Home/ School Agreement
Working and Playing Happily Together*

Bullying

'Bullying displays with wilful, conscious desire to hurt or threaten or frighten someone else by a pupil who has some sort of power over the victim'.

'A pupil is being bullied, or picked on, when another pupil or group of pupils say nasty things to him or her. It is also bullying when a pupil is hit, kicked, threatened, sent nasty notes, when no-one talks to them. These things can happen frequently and it is difficult for the pupil being bullied to defend him or herself. It is also bullying if a pupil is teased repeatedly in a nasty way.

However, if two pupils of equal age, power or strength have an occasional fight or quarrel, this is not bullying'.

Ref: 'Bullying – Don't suffer in silence', Department for Education and Employment 1994'.

At Leftwich Primary we regard bullying as particularly serious and always take firm action against it. We feel that everyone connected with school has a responsibility to ensure that any instances of bullying are reported immediately. Acting can only solve problems of this kind in a direct and positive manner. Children have the right to learn and grow free from intimidation.

What are the signs of bullying?

- Child unwilling to go to school
- Work at school suffers
- Physical signs
- Become withdrawn
- Become distressed, poor eaters for little apparent reason
- Nightmares, interrupted sleep
- Have possessions go 'missing'
- Refuse to say what is wrong

School Action

Children must be secure in the knowledge that it is 'ok to tell' and feel confident that appropriate action will be taken.

All incidents will be taken seriously and investigated as soon as possible.

In order to prevent or deal with bullying we will always endeavour to:

Observe: All involved in school life can observe wherever children are in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds, and watch social relationships wherever they occur.

Listen: Listen to verbal interactions between pupils. Listen to what pupils have to say whether messages of bullying come direct or second hand from a friend.

Investigate and Act: Always take incidents seriously – ensure that children are aware of this:

Find out the facts – talk to bullies and victims individually
Agree possible solutions or punishments if necessary
If necessary break up group dynamics
If necessary call in the parents of both parties and keep them informed of progress.

Advice to Parents

Do:

- Encourage your child to talk to a member of staff as soon as an incident has occurred.
- Show an interest in all that your child does at school
- Contact your child's class teacher immediately should you have cause for concern.

Do not:

- Say (for example) Go and hit back
Boys will be boys
Girls are like that
It will sort itself out
It's part of growing up

Do remember there is a difference between social development and bullying.

Care and Control

There are occasions when the restraint of pupils is necessary.

Teachers and other persons who are authorised by the headteacher to have control or charge of pupils may use reasonable force to prevent pupils from:

- Injuring themselves or others
- Causing damage to property, including their own property
- Engaging in any behaviour which has a negative impact on maintaining good order and discipline at the school or among other pupils, whether this behaviour occurs in a classroom during a teaching session or elsewhere.

All teachers are authorised to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber Bullying is when one person or a group of people threaten, tease or embarrass someone else by using a mobile phone, the internet or other technologies. Cyber bullies can reach their victims whenever and wherever they are, meaning it can be very hard to escape it. It often leaves people feeling scared, lonely and stressed and that there is no way out. The fact that cyber bullies can target their victims anonymously means that they are often nastier and more aggressive than they would be if they were picking on someone face-to-face.

School Action

A number of measures are in place in school to prevent cyber bullying:

- A policy for 'Safe Use of the Internet' is available to support parents
- Children are educated about appropriate use of the internet
- Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school
- Children do not access the internet in school without adult supervision
- Children are only provided with a password for the school learning portal on receipt of a signed agreement between school and home stating that passwords will be kept safe and confidential.

Children's use of the school learning portal is monitored by teaching and administrative staff. Children are not permitted to use the messaging service. Should any inappropriate material be found on a child's home page or within a forum, the child involved will instantly lose access to the portal.

Advice to Parents

- Keep and save any bullying emails, texts or images you get; they may be useful if you need to prove what is happening.
- Make a note of the time and date that messages or images were sent, along with any details you have about the sender.
- Try changing your online user ID or nickname.
- Change your mobile number and only give it to close friends
- Mobile phone companies and internet service providers can trace bullies, so do not be afraid to report them.
- Use the 'block' function on your instant message to avoid unwanted contact.
- Do not reply to bullying or threatening text messages or emails – this could make matters worse.
- Report serious bullying, like threats of a physical nature, to the police.

To be reviewed by the Governors: September 2017

Signed (Chair of Governors): _____ Date: _____

Signed (Headteacher): _____ Date: _____