

Anti-Bullying Policy



Introduction

“All children are a gift from God. They are all special and should be allowed to develop and grow in a nurturing environment secure in the knowledge that they are cherished.”

At Hailey CE Primary School we endeavour to create a safe and stimulating environment where everyone knows that they are valued. A person has the right to be treated with respect and has the responsibility to treat others in the same way. Children are given the confidence and strategies to speak up and tell of any bullying experiences, knowing that positive action will be taken.

Aims and objectives

- To promote a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment or any type of bullying behaviour.
- To create a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.
- To produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- To inform pupils and parents of the school’s expectations and to foster a productive partnership which helps maintain a bullying-free environment.

What is bullying?

Bullying is a conscious and wilful repetitive act of aggression and/or manipulation by one or more people against another person or people. It is also an abuse of power by those carrying out the bullying, which is designed to cause harm. If bullying is allowed it harms the perpetrator, the target and the whole school community and its culture of safety and wellbeing in the school.

The Nature of Bullying

Bullying is considered to be:

- deliberately hurtful (including aggression)
- repeated often
- often difficult for individuals who are being bullied to defend themselves

Bullying can take many forms:

- physical: hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal: name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- indirect: spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours
- in this increasingly technological age pupils may also be subject to cyber-bullying (e.g. text messages, e-mail and social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc)

People may bully others because of varying perceived differences:

- sexism, racism, religion or belief, academic ability, gender identity, homophobia, disability, perceived characteristic (e.g. hair colour or weight) or because of an associate (family member or friend)

Our Approach to Bullying

We believe that if children are encouraged to be good citizens in an environment where they feel stimulated and excited by their learning, it will minimize the occurrence of bullying. We feel it is important to create an atmosphere where our children know that they will be listened to and where their problems and worries are taken seriously and responded to with sensitivity.

Bullying is always unacceptable and always serious. We are committed to creating a safe environment where children can learn and play, can talk about their worries, and be confident that an adult will listen and will offer help.

Through a variety of planned activities across the curriculum such as PSHE lessons, role-play, class performances, sharing assemblies, our children gain in self-confidence and develop strategies to speak up for themselves and express their own thoughts and opinions. Encouraging children to be school ambassadors or becoming a play leader promotes children's self-confidence. In having this approach, we believe this helps to reduce a code of secrecy where children feel too scared to speak up and tell of any bullying experiences. Each year we run Anti-Bullying Week in the school using in-house materials and also from OCC anti-Bullying Alliance.

Our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum will ensure that each class addresses issues related to bullying. This may take the form of an explicit approach or maybe implicit, in terms of looking at friendships and valuing each other, appreciating differences, to develop individual self-confidence. In addition to this, the issue of bullying in its many forms is the focus of circle time discussions.

Incidences of bullying brought to the attention of the class teacher are investigated as soon as possible. Information is gathered from pupils and any staff concerned. Any relevant observations are recorded by the teacher and the Headteacher is kept informed.

The school also has a comprehensive E-Safety Policy which describes our approach to online and mobile technologies bullying. For bullying incidents in and out of school, the head teacher and specific staff can take action according to the school's Behaviour Policy and Behaviour Principles, further guided by national and local statutory guidance.

We have two aims when reacting to incidents of bullying:

1. to make the child who has been bullied feel safe
2. to encourage better behaviour from the child who has displayed bullying behaviours, colluders and bystanders.

In order to achieve this we use a range of strategies appropriate to the nature, severity and history of the bullying. If the bullying is a recently established behaviour by an individual or a group which involves regular name-calling, intimidation or social exclusion (but not gross physical violence) a problem solving approach is adopted. The underlying intention is to change the dynamics of the situation, to raise the awareness of the participants about bullying, and to support the peer group in taking responsibility for bullying. It is a seven-step approach.

If the bullying involves an individual or group, who have been involved in bullying on a previous occasion and the school has previously implemented the above problem solving approach, then the following procedure will be followed:

1. the Headteacher is informed
2. the pupil who has been bullied is interviewed and their comments recorded
3. the pupil or pupils who have displayed bullying behaviours is/are interviewed and comments recorded
4. the parents of the individual who has shown bullying behaviour are contacted and invited to a meeting; a meeting between the Headteacher, pupil and parents is held; the incidents are outlined and the sanctions are detailed.
5. Individual Behaviour Plans to set targets to improve and monitor behaviour are set up which may involve calling upon the expertise of outside agencies.
6. In persistent circumstances sanctions may include:
 - permanent suspension
 - temporary suspension
 - exclusion from the school premises at lunchtime
 - exclusion from the playground at lunchtime
 - move out of current class
 - arrangements for parent to supervise pupil to and from school daily
7. The parents/carers of the pupil who has been bullied are kept informed throughout the whole process

The Role of the Governing Body

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. This will be done through a monitoring log, pupil and parent surveys and through the sample questionnaire which is conducted annually with Year 6. The governors require the Headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies. The governing body follows the procedure and timescale requirements defined in the school's Raising Concerns and Complaints policy to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying.

The Role of Parents

Parents also play an important role in promoting our anti-bullying policy. Parents are expected to support the school in the application and enforcement of this policy and attend meetings at the school with staff to discuss their child's behaviour if required.

Social media

Pupils should be able to enjoy using social media in a safe environment but the school recognises that there are inherent threats in using social media which could harm the welfare of pupils and staff. Our E-safety policy sets out our approach to cyber-bullying. Where a member of staff has reasonable cause to believe that a pupil is either the victim or perpetrator of cyber-bullying, they should inform [the Headteacher] without delay.

Monitoring the Policy

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request. Reference is made and note taken of incidents in the regular meetings between the staff DSLs and Governor DSL. To discover the extent to which bullying exists in school and to monitor the extent to which our anti-bullying policy is effective the log and strategies will be reviewed alongside the pupil and parent surveys and the Year 6 questionnaire. The anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this through discussion with the Headteacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnicity, perceived sexual orientation and any other characteristic/ background of all children involved in bullying incidents.

Signed:
Headteacher:
Date:

Signed:
Chair of Governors:
Date:

Problem Solving Approach

Step 1: The child who has been bullied is interviewed

Once it has been established that a child has been bullied, the child is interviewed. The main focus of the interview is to understand the effect the bullying has had upon the child. He or she is asked if they want to pursue the issue. If appropriate the child may be asked to draw a picture or write a poem to describe the effect the bullying has had on them. The child is then asked who he or she would like to attend a meeting who might help to make their lives much safer at school.

Step 2: A meeting is convened with people involved

A small group of pupils is asked to meet with the teacher or the person who is handling the incident. This will include those who have displayed the bullying behaviour, others who have witnessed it but have not taken part, and other members of the peer group who may not have been involved at all but who could make a positive contribution.

Step 3: The problem is explained to the group

The bullying is explained to the children and is emphasized that the bullying makes the person being bullied feel really bad. The others are read the child's poem or shown the picture; either is used as the basis for discussion. No one is blamed for the bullying but solutions are sought.

Step 4: The responsibility is shared

The group shares the responsibility for the bullying. Although blame is not attributed and punishments are not meted out, the act of bullying has to be acknowledged so the group can move onto the next stage.

Step 5: The group is asked for its ideas

The group is asked what they feel should be done. After brainstorming, individuals suggest solutions - how they feel they can help and what they will do. Good, positive suggestions for making things better are sought.

Step 6: It is left up to the group

The responsibility for carrying out their suggestions is left up to the group. They go away feeling they will do something positive that is supported by the teacher who has conducted the session and in conjunction with the effects of the peers.

Step 7: A review meeting with the child who was bullied

A week or so later the teacher meets up with the child to find out what improvements have been made.

Step 8: The group meets again

The group meets again to discuss what they have done and what effect they have had and have some feedback from the meeting the teacher has had.