



## Anti-Bullying Policy

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<b>Date of Adoption</b>		Governing Body

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# Dymchurch Primary School



## Anti-Bullying Policy

### Introduction

All children have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting young people's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood.

At Dymchurch Primary School we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere free from oppression and abuse. Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone. All types of bullying are unacceptable at our school and will not be tolerated. All pupils should feel able to tell and when bullying behaviour is brought to our attention prompt and effective action will be taken: We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who is aware of any type of bullying that is taking place is expected to tell a member of staff immediately.

### What is Bullying?

'Bullying behaviour abuses an imbalance of power to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people. Isolated instances of hurtful behaviour, teasing or arguments between individuals would not be seen as bullying' (Torfaen definition 2008)

Bullying generally takes one of four forms:

- Indirect being unfriendly, spreading rumours, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding bags or books)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping or any form of violence
- Verbal: name calling, teasing, threats, sarcasm
- Cyber: all areas of internet misuse, such as nasty and/or threatening emails, misuse of blogs, gaming websites, internet chat rooms and instant messaging. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology i.e. camera and video facilities

Although not an exhaustive list, common examples of bullying include:

- Racial bullying
- Homophobic bullying
- Bullying based on disability, ability, gender, appearance or circumstance.

### Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be bullied. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

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Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

#### Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported
- Bullying will not be tolerated

#### Implementation

##### School

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents.

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Headteacher
- The Headteacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- Teachers will be kept informed and if it persists the teacher will liaise with the Headteacher
- Parents will be kept informed
- Children that are being bullied or see bullying happening should tell their teacher or an adult that they trust.
- Members of staff should tell Headteacher about any bullying and this will be recorded on in a behaviour log. Racial bullying will be reported to the Local Education Authority.
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted

##### Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- They will be reassured that they do not deserve to be bullied and that it's not their fault. They will be encouraged to talk about their feelings and they will be involved in making choices about how to resolve the matter. They will be asked to tell someone if any bullying happens again and we will involve their friends for support. We may also involve our Family Liaison officer.

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Pupils who have bullied other children will be helped by:

- We will talk to the child (or children) involved in the bullying separately and listen to their version of what happened discovering why the pupil became involved.
- We will talk to anyone else that saw the bullying. We will remind the child (or children) that bullying is not acceptable and expect bullying to stop establishing the wrong doing and the need to change.
- We will contact the child's parents. We will make sure we check that the bullying has not started again. We will encourage and develop reflective behaviours to support children who bully and we may involve our Family Liaison officer

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:

Children that have been involved in bullying may be removed from the group, not be allowed out at break times and lunchtimes, not be allowed to join in with school events or in extreme cases, may be excluded . The police may need to be involved in extreme cases also.

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, time, assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.

#### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

#### **Prevention**

- Our school behaviour policy helps to promote positive behaviour in school to create an environment where everyone behaves well and supports each other.
- During P.S.H.E and circle time children will learn about the consequences of bullying and what to do if they experience bullying.
- Posters on the school notice boards and classrooms remind children that bullying is not acceptable, and to tell them what to do if they are being bullied.
- Worry boxes are set up in each classroom so that children can let the teacher know about any concerns they might have.
- Our school takes part in the national anti-bullying week every year to remind children that bullying is not acceptable.
- The school council discuss ways in which they can support anti-bullying work in school.
- School Behaviour Policy promotes the behaviour in school

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**Anti-Bullying Policy**

- During PSHE

**Signs and Symptoms**

Many children and young people do not speak out when being bullied and may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Doesn't want to go on the school bus
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Uses excuses to miss school (headache, stomach ache etc)
- Begins to suffer academically
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing'
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has dinner or other monies continually 'lost'
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises or shows signs of being in a fight
- Comes home starving (money/lunch has been stolen)
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Changes their eating habits (stops eating or over eats)
- Goes to bed earlier than usual;
- Is unable to sleep
- Wets the bed
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Give unlikely excuses for any of the above
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous and jumpy when a text message or email is received

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

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