

Paulton Junior School
ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Statement of Intent

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. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know 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 the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour intended to cause fear, distress or harm to another person's body, emotions, self-esteem or reputation. A definition that we use with the children is S.T.O.P. – **Several Times On Purpose.**

What is Cyber-Bullying?

Using the internet to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm someone else.

Bullying can also 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 focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email, internet chat room and social networking misuse.
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

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.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults at both home and school should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- 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
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is 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

What the school will do

In response to parents complains or incidents witnessed by staff or reported by children:

Staff will use the "No Blame" approach to bullying incidents:

1. Talk to class teacher and assistant to get a view of the situation and any background information.
2. Talk to the child/other children
3. If a child identified as being bullied, parents/carers will be informed
4. If a child is identified as being a bully:

-The class teacher and Headteacher will be informed and will record the incident

-The child's parents will be spoken to by the class teacher

5. The victim will be monitored to see that they are not showing further signs of stress.

6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour. Outside agencies may be approached for support.

Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- 5) In any cases of racial bullying. The head teacher will be informed and the Behaviour Policy procedures followed.

Prevention

We use a holistic approach to preventing bullying. With the belief that knowledge is power and understanding will prevent bullying from happening. These include:

- Writing a set of class rules
- Reward co-operation and caring behaviour by group or individuals.
- Promote strategies for preventing bullying through the PSHE lessons, assembly themes and strategies eg social stories
- Review this policy document each year in co-operation with children, staff and parents/carers.
- Complete the questionnaire each year to see if the school is being effective in preventing bullying.
- signing a behaviour contract
- reading stories about bullying / having them read to a class / assembly. Stories dealing with bullying to be included in all curriculums.
- Anti-bullying week whole school awareness campaigns.
- Class discussions about bullying and why it matters

When a child does not respond

1. Loss of playtime
2. Further behaviour sanctions used.
3. Individual daily report system used
4. Possible referral to Behaviour Panel
5. Possible exclusion from school for a fixed period of time

How can parents prevent bullying?

- Don't bully your own child
- Talk to the teacher, NOT the child who bullied
- Parents of the bully and the victim can communicate through the teacher

Racist Incidents

All incidents, which are identified as being racist, are recorded on CPOMS and if a suspension is given then this will be recorded on the pupil's attendance record. The pupil will be supported and education provided on diversity, culture and racial awareness. Outside agencies may be contacted to provide interventions.

This policy was written and adopted in November 2018

Reviewed: November 2019

Reviewed: December 2021

Reviewed: September 2022

Next Review: September 2023