

ANTI - BULLYING POLICY

AIMS

Bishop Barrington's stated aims are, that within this school community:

All members of the school community have a right to be safe at school

The welfare and safety of the school community is the responsibility of all members

Any form of bullying will not be tolerated at this school

All reports of bullying will be taken seriously and acted upon in an appropriate and pre-defined manner

DEFINITION OF 'BULLYING'

Bishop Barrington defines bullying as:

The repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted (text or internet), or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another. It may include, but not be limited to actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put downs, including homophobic, racist, ethnic or gender-based, verbal put downs, and extortion of money or possessions, isolation or exclusion from peer group or activities.

It should be noted that this is by no means an exhaustive list of the forms that bullying can take and that anyone who perceives that they are being bullied shall be taken seriously on an individual basis.

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying is a type of aggression defined by Childnet International as the 'sending or posting of harmful or cruel text or images using the internet or other digital communication devices'. The Anti-Bullying Association has identified seven types of cyberbullying, ranging from abusive text messages, emails and phone calls, to bullying in internet chatrooms, social networking sites and instant messaging:

- 1. Text messages** - unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
- 2. Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras** - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
- 3. Mobile phone calls** - silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible.
- 4. Emails** - threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name.
- 5. Chatroom bullying** - menacing or upsetting responses to children or

young people when they are in a web-based chatroom.

6. Instant messaging - unpleasant messages sent as children conduct real-time conversations online.

7. Bullying via websites - use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites.

Cyberbullying is insidious; it can be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, following children into their private space and outside school hours. It can be anonymous. The audience is large and can be reached rapidly. Unlike other forms of bullying, a single incident can be experienced as a multiple attack - a video posted to a website can be copied to many different sites. Bystanders can become accessories by passing on a humiliating message.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY

In writing this policy, it is Bishop Barrington's intention that:

The entire school community (including parents) should have an understanding of what bullying is.

The entire school community 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.

All members of the school community 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 / public bus

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

attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares

feels ill in the morning

begins to perform 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 text message/ email is received
develops any notable behaviour change including negative or disruptive behaviour

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

PROCEDURES

1. All members of the school community have a responsibility to report all incidents (or suspected incidents) of bullying to any member of staff. This should then be reported to Pupil Link Officers or Learning Support Unit Manager who can monitor whole school anti-bullying systems.
2. In all cases of alleged bullying, the incidents will be recorded by Pupil Link Officers who, in conjunction with the Learning Support Unit, will decide on the most appropriate course of action.
3. In serious cases the Behaviour and Attendance Manager will take the lead. Parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour
7. The situation will be monitored by the Pupil Link Officers and Learning Support Unit until it is considered completely resolved.

RACIST BULLYING INCIDENTS

Racist incidents and bullying will not be tolerated by the Bishop

Barrington school community.

Where an incident of a racist nature occurs (this can include name-calling, jokes, graffiti, non-co-operation, violence, intimidation or even possession of racist badges, literature etc.) we at Bishop Barrington have worked with the Anti-Bullying service to ensure that we strictly adhere to and have a clear and current understanding of the most effective way to record, report and respond to any such incident. Should you require further details of this procedure please contact the Anti-Bullying Coordinator

and request a copy of the 'Recording, Reporting and Responding to Racist Incidents' Guidelines for Schools and other Educational Establishments document.

HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING INCIDENTS

Homophobic incidents and bullying will not be tolerated by the Bishop Barrington school community.

Where an incident of a Homophobic nature occurs (this can include namecalling, public ridicule, graffiti, rumour mongering, violence, intimidation, social isolation, sexual assault etc.) we at Bishop Barrington have worked with the Anti-Bullying service to ensure that we strictly adhere to and have a clear and current understanding of the most effective way to record, report and respond to any such incident. Should you require further details of this procedure please contact the Anti-Bullying Coordinator

and request a copy of the 'Tackling Homophobia' Guidelines for Schools and other Educational Establishments document.

OUTCOMES

1. In less serious cases or where no harm was intended the relevant parties will be offered mediation or separate discussions to clarify and resolve the situation. In such instances the school's antibullying co-ordinator and project mentor may be used for advice or support. Peer supporters may also be used to work through the problem.
2. In more serious cases Fixed Term Inclusion, Fixed Term Exclusion or even Permanent Exclusion may be considered in order to resolve the situation. At this stage the school's Durham County Antibullying service co-ordinator may be asked to offer support and advice.
3. Wherever required, affected individuals will be assigned a lead

person until the situation is resolved.

4. Wherever possible the perpetrator will be offered support in order to prevent further incidents.

PREVENTION / AWARENESS

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

The Learning Support Unit will work on prevention and awareness on an individual or small group basis as part of its overall remit. This will also be supported using the Lunch Club and Breakfast Club.

The Learning Mentors and Project Mentor (funded by the Excellence in Clusters) within the school will work on prevention and awareness on an individual or small group basis as part of their overall remit.

The school peer mentors will work within school to actively prevent and raise awareness of issues surrounding the anti bullying policy.

The school will actively participate in raising awareness during national anti-bullying week using whole school activities.

The school will work closely with the LEA anti-bullying worker to ensure that all practises are current and appropriate.

All external agencies which support the school will be made aware of the school's anti-bullying policy and will be expected to support it.

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 using assemblies, form time, staff meetings, school notice boards, and parent information booklets.

COMPLAINTS

If you are unhappy with the way a case has been handled, complaints should be made in accordance with the *General School Complaints Procedure*, available from Reception.

Policy approved by Governors on 21st June 2010(SRC Committee)

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