

# ABBEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Aim, Aspire, Achieve @ Abbeys*

Abbeys Primary School

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## Anti-Bullying Policy

Date of policy: October 2019

Review Date: October 2022 (or earlier dependent on issuing of new guidance)

## **Policy Statement**

Abbeys Primary School regards all forms of bullying as unacceptable. In order for children to develop and achieve their full potential to learn, they need to feel safe, respected and valued by their peers and adults. Bullying will not be tolerated.

We recognise that bullying is a major concern for pupils, parents and staff. We believe it can have a long term, damaging effect on both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in terms of their social, emotional and educational development.

Abbeys Primary School is committed to ensuring that children learn in a safe and secure environment, which fosters equality of opportunity, mutual respect and cooperation. Children, staff and parents should recognise that bullying represents an abuse of power over others. They should also feel confident that it is actively discouraged and firmly dealt with if it does take place.

## **Bullying Behaviours**

At Abbeys Primary School, we believe bullying is any deliberate act which results from a conscious effort to hurt or threaten someone. It is an abuse of power and results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying is generally a campaign or process repeated over a period of time. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological and may take many forms:

*Physical* - hitting, kicking, threatening and rude gestures, unnecessary physical contact, spitting, taking belongings, etc.

*Verbal* - name-calling, taunting, teasing, spreading rumours, racist, homophobic and sexist remarks, swearing deliberate ignoring or isolating.

*Use of social media* - please also refer to the eSafety and Acceptable Use Policy.

*Psychological* - any of the above that will affect or unbalance the child's mental well being.

## **Anti-bullying Procedure**

At Abbeys Primary School we seek to promote a culture in which it is safe to tell or seek help if a child feels he/she is a victim of bullying. If a case of bullying is reported the facts of the case will be checked thoroughly and fairly. If bullying has taken place it will be our practice to confront the bully and make him/her aware of the harm that unacceptable behaviour has, both on the victim and the perpetrator. The victim will be supported and reassured that it was right to expose the bullying and that the matter is being addressed. The perpetrator will be supported in changing their unacceptable behaviour with the help of staff and, perhaps, outside agencies.

In line with our Positive Behaviour Policy, the class teacher will log any bullying incidents. Parents of the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) will be informed of the incidents noted.

### **Strategies to combat bullying**

Aspects of social, moral, spiritual and cultural teaching and learning can be used to raise awareness about bullying and help build an anti-bullying ethos, primarily by teaching pupils how to constructively manage their relationships with others. Other strategies include the use of assemblies, co-operative group work, circle time, befriending and active co-operation of parents to support both the child and staff. Children know that they can speak to an adult if they have a worry, and 'Tell Me' or 'Worry Boxes' are available for children to use if needed.

Children who volunteer to work as Play Leaders on the playgrounds receive guidance on how to deal with any witnessed incidents which may constitute a form of bullying, both from the victim(s) and the perpetrators(s) point of view. They are taught to inform an adult of the incident they have witnessed or had reported to them.

Where pupils do not respond to preventative strategies to combat bullying, the school will take action to deal with persistent and violent bullying. Parents will always be informed of these situations. Advice will be sought from the Primary Behaviour Support Team.

### **Sanctions may include:**

Removal from the group or class

Withdrawal of break and lunchtime privileges

Withholding participation in any school events that are not part of the National Curriculum

Temporary fixed exclusion for a set period of days

In the event of a particularly serious incident of bullying, the Headteacher can permanently exclude a pupil.

This policy has been developed with reference to schools' statutory responsibilities and takes account of guidance and procedures, including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2019)
- Guidance on Teaching Online Safety in Schools

This policy will be reviewed in line with the School Improvement Plan, which is every three years or earlier if a new initiative is implemented or is necessary.

October 2019