

Anti Bullying Policy
Evelyn Community Primary School
May 2010

Description of School

Evelyn Community Primary school has 273 pupils on roll, including a nursery unit. The school has 8 full time teachers and 3 part time teachers with a classroom assistant or nursery nurse in each group and a Learning Mentor.

The school is situated in Prescot, Merseyside in a mixed catchment area with 12% of children on free school meals. There are currently 11.3% of pupils with Special Educational Needs, 2% of which are stated.

Our School Mission statement is:

WE BELIEVE

- Everyone is of equal value and 'Every Child Matters'
- In respect
- In ensuring every child reaches his or her full potential
- In developing a partnership between home, school and the wider community
- In developing children morally, emotionally, spiritually, socially, academically and culturally within a stimulating environment
- In A Real life, Creative, Skills-based (ARCS) curriculum in which knowledge, skills and attitudes are developed and enhanced
- In fostering a community of 'Lifelong Learners'
- In equipping learners with the tools to be a global citizen in an ever changing society

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 communicative school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person.

Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (eg. 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 and internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging and calls, misuse of associated technology, ie. camera and video facilities

Why is it important to respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and support staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All governors and teaching and support 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 should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on school trips or outings
- 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
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- 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 'lost'
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money/lunch has been taken)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or sibling
- 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 and 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.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In case of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff

3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come into 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. Positive attempts will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour. A range of strategies will be used for this.
- Children will be supported at all stages of this procedure.

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.

Prevention

As a school, we adopt methods which help to prevent bullying occurring.

- School Mission Statement
- Signing a Behaviour Contract

In PSHCE lessons –

- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role plays)
- having discussions about bullying, and why it matters

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually unless there are changes to National and Local Guidelines.