

## **BURTON BRADSTOCK SCHOOL**

### **Anti-bullying Policy**

\*Please read this policy in conjunction with the school's Behaviour and Discipline policy and Child Protection policy.

**This policy has been drawn up using materials from the Kidscape charity. The children have also been involved in contributing their ideas on what bullying is and how our school should deal with it.**

#### **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 the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying is not something that happens one day, it happens constantly\*. Bullying is something that is done deliberately to upset someone. Bullying takes away your right to feel safe.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures). It can be when there is one child who is being teased by lots of children and it can be mental such as calling someone fat or thin
- Physical - hurting physically by pulling clothes, kicking, punching, pushing, throwing you on the floor – not just once but lots of times
- 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 misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & 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**

Our school asked the children what they felt the purpose of an anti-bullying policy should be and they responded:

- To stop bullying
- To help people to feel safe in the school
- So people don't hurt each other
- So we know how to stay safe outside school

In addition to this:

- 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.

### **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 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
- 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 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

## **Responding**

Our school asked children about how we should respond to bullying as individuals and as a school, and they said:

- Tell the bully to stop and really mean it
- Tell a teacher
- Tell an adult you can trust
- Tell a friend for them to tell an adult
- Write a letter to someone you trust
- Use the class worry box
- Tell your learning partner
- Other children who know what is happening should tell someone
- Other children who know what is happening should play with the child who is being bullied
- Teachers should tell the bullies to stop
- Teachers should take what you say seriously
- Teachers should find the children a safe place to play
- Teachers should help children tell the bullies how they really feel
- Teachers should tell the parents of the bullies

Staff will use these methods to deal with incidents, as appropriate.

\* All incidents are taken seriously and dealt with regardless of the frequency