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**Dealing with Bullying**

**When dealing with any incident it is important to focus on the behaviour and the impact that it had. Increasing children’s understanding of bullying and its impact has had a positive impact on behaviour across the school and children are empowered to stand up for their own rights and the rights of others.**

**Every bullying incident should be looked at individually. In some cases the child may not realise that their behaviour is actually bullying and may not understand that it is wrong. In these circumstances the intent to bully someone else may not be there but the impact on the person is no less severe because of this.**

**In dealing with bullying incidents:**

* **We will not ignore bullying**
* **Staff should not make assumptions**
* **All accounts of the incidents should be listened to fairly**
* **We will make every effort to adopt a restorative approach to encourage children to find solutions rather than simply justify themselves**
* **We will monitor and check in with children to ensure that the bullying has stopped**
* **We will record all bullying on Seemis as per NLC policy**

**Although the process of investigation will be the same, where a child has additional support needs consideration must be given as to how best to deal with the incident and support the child.**

**What does this mean for our children?**

**All children have the right to feel safe, secure and protected in school. We will work hard to make sure that all children experience positive relationships and are happy in school.**

**What does this means for our Parents?**

**Parents will be kept fully informed of any incidents of bullying involving their child and will be given the opportunity for their views to be heard and considered. At all times school will work in partnership with parents to support children.**

**Woodlands Primary School –Anti Bullying Policy**

**What is Bullying?**

**We all know that children and young people will disagree and fall out with each other as they learn to form and build relationships. This is a normal part of growing up and learning to negotiate with their peers is a key aspect of a child’s development. In these cases children should be supported to talk about what has happened, how they feel and to find a solution. This is a key aspect of a restorative approach to building positive relationships.**

**Bullying behaviour is different. It is behaviour that makes someone feel excluded or powerless. Bullying can be verbal, physical, emotional or psychological and can take place in person or online. Bullying can include being called names, teased, threatened, put down, hit or kicked, having your things hidden, stolen or damaged, being ignored or left out, having things said about you verbally or in text. Bullying can be a one off incident or a series of incidents.**

**AS a rights respecting school we have an ethos that promotes and fosters positive relationships. We support children to build positive relationships with each other and to treat each other the way you would like to be treated and with respect. We raise awareness of bullying by teaching our children that bullying is not acceptable in any form, making them aware of the impact that bullying can have and what they should do if they or someone else is being bullied.**

**Key Message**

**Woodlands Primary School is a Rights Respecting School and children’s rights as set out in the UNCRC underpin all aspects of our school. Bullying is never acceptable. We strive to help our children and young people to be able to recognise bullying behaviour, understand that it is wrong and why and how it will be dealt with by school staff.**

**Woodlands Primary School has high expectations for behaviour and strive to ensure that all children’s rights are respected. We adhere to the guidelines within North Lanarkshire Council Anti Bullying Policy. The school community have worked together to create an environment and ethos where bullying is not tolerated or accepted.**