



Strathyre Primary School 2018-2019

Anti-Bullying Policy

"I have the right to feel
safe in school"

Anti-Bullying Policy

At Strathyre Primary School we believe every child has a right to come to school and feel safe, and that each parent has the right to expect this for their child.

Verbal, physical and emotional bullying will not be tolerated in this school. We believe it is everyone's responsibility to prevent it happening. With this in mind we have devised the following policy in order to help all staff and children deal effectively with incidents of bullying. When referring to 'bullying' in this document we use it to mean all forms of bullying.

The first and most important step in countering bullying is to encourage the child to TELL, and that telling will not make things worse. As adults it is our responsibility to listen to the child and take action. Children cannot solve bullying alone and therefore rely on effective adult intervention.

Once an incident of bullying has been identified the school will react firmly and promptly. There are a range of possibilities available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the case. These include:

- talking to the child about making the right choice
- following the Going for Gold behaviour system
- identifying the school rule that has been broken and writing about what could be done differently in the future
- referral to HT
- discussion or letter to parents
- internal exclusion
- exclusion from school during lunchtimes (if behaviour occurs at lunchtimes)
- exclusion from school

A child who has been bullying others usually has underlying problems of their own and should be offered counselling. This may be on a 1:1 basis by the class teacher or head, and parents may need to be involved. It may be appropriate to appoint a 'buddy' (either an older child or a sensible child in the same class) with a view to helping to improve the child's behaviour.

The child who has been bullied also needs to be supported and needs reassurance that they are believed and that the bullying will stop. The 'buddy' system may also be appropriate here, as it gives the child reassurance that other children are supporting them. In the first instance the child should be encouraged to report to the class teacher at regular intervals (e.g. at the end of break period) so that the teacher has regular updates as to the current situation.

Strathyre Primary School will strive to put an end to bullying in the following ways:

1. Watch for early signs of distress, e.g. withdrawn/submissive behaviour unwillingness to come to school, repeated minor illnesses, crying, seeking security from adults. These are not exclusive and may be signs of other problems, but should be investigated.
2. Listen carefully and record in diary all relevant information.
3. Offer the victim immediate support.
4. Make it clear to the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable.
5. Contact both sets of parents if deemed serious or persistent. Discussions with parents should be recorded. The aim of the meeting should be to help the child fully recognise the seriousness of what they have done and devise steps with the help and support of parents to help the bully change their behaviour.
6. Bullying is taken seriously and all efforts will be made to discover the facts of any incident. These will be recorded. Peer groups will also be used wherever appropriate to actively discourage bullying.
8. The Community Police can and will be invited into school from time to time to address assemblies or individual classes about bullying. FVHB, Max in the Class will also be used as a resource for older year groups.
9. As a school we will help children devise positive strategies to help counter bullying. These include:
 - a) telling an adult you trust
 - b) move away / ask them to go away
 - d) ignore the bully and then report this to an adult
 - e) get friends together and say 'no'
 - f) avoid being alone in places where bullying occurs

As onlookers it is children's responsibility to:

- a) go for help immediately to an adult or older pupil
 - b) show you disapprove and give sympathy and support to the child being bullied
 - d) be careful about teasing - imagine how you'd feel
 - e) tell a trusted adult - it's not telling tales, the victim may be too scared or lonely to tell.
10. In order to ensure incidents of bullying are recorded in a consistent way, we have devised a school record book to enable us to monitor behaviour. The book will be kept in the office where staff have easy access to it. It is the responsibility of all staff to record incidents they perceive as relevant.

It is the responsibility of all non-teaching staff to report any incidents they have dealt with to the class teacher who will then decide whether to record it or not.

11. As bullying can be so detrimental to the happiness and well being of a child, incidents of bullying take priority over class issues, therefore there has to be flexibility within the system to allow the incidents to be dealt with immediately.
12. We sincerely hope that by following these procedures we can ensure a happy and secure environment for the children attending Strathyre Primary School.

August 2018