



DEANESFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

(see also: Behaviour, Safeguarding, Inclusion, SEND Policy and Equalities & Diversity Statement and Policy, Racial Equality Policy)

1. Introduction

'Children have a right to be protected from conflict, cruelty exploitation and neglect, then they also have a responsibility not to bully or harm each other' UNICEF Children's Rights and Responsibilities

"Bullying breaks children down. It is shameful, humiliating and frightening, and young people often feel powerless to stop it" (Childline)

Deanesfield Primary School is a Unicef Rights Respecting School. Our values and rights underpin this whole school policy and we believe that this approach will promote positive behaviour and develop successful, responsible citizens for the future.

Bullying in any form is entirely unacceptable. At Deanesfield our aim is to have a happy school where each individual is supported and encouraged to achieve their academic and personal potential. This aim can only be best achieved in an environment which is safe, nurturing and free from any type of bullying.

2. Rationale

- Deanesfield Primary School is committed to provide a safe, supportive environment for all people in the school.
- The school hopes to make a difference through its commitment to tackling the issues of bullying.
- For the purpose of this policy, bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

There are different types of bullying:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. 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 focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of the internet, social media such as email and internet chat room misuse including sexting and grooming behaviours.
- Mobile threats by text messaging and calls.
- Misuse of associated technology i.e. mobile phones, tablets, laptops, camera and video facilities
- Using coercive and persuasive tactics to encourage children to take part in behaviours that may cause harm e.g. initiation ceremonies

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that they are being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- 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 underperform 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
- Has dinner or other money continually “lost”
- Has unexplained cuts and/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 is wrong
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous and/or suddenly stops looking when messages are received

These signs could indicate other problems but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

As members of the Deanesfield Primary School community we have all agreed to the values and rights that constitute our Rights Respecting Whole School Golden Charter and to our class charters. We have agreed to treat each other with respect and take responsibility for treating others as we would like to be treated. Bullying behaviour goes against our values and rights and is unacceptable. Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Children who are using bullying behaviours towards others need to learn different ways of behaving.

We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying behaviour that occur within school.

3. Aims

The aims of the school policy on anti bullying are:

- to maintain and develop a secure and welcoming school community where effective learning can take place.
- to raise awareness in the school community of the nature and effect of bullying behaviour
- to provide up to date information about bullying
- to give a clear message to parents, children and the community that bullying will not be tolerated by implementing the Behaviour Policy.
- to encourage the reporting of bullying and harassment wherever it is found
- to ensure that victims, bullies, witnesses and parents know that the school will take positive action





- to enable adults and children to manage their lives and relationships in a positive non aggressive way

4. Ethos and relationships

- A caring ethos will encourage and model non-bullying behaviour and the view that bullying is unacceptable. This will be reflected in the support offered to victims and their families.
- It is important that all members of the school community, adults and children, are respectful of the rights of others and behave in a considerate mannerly way.

5. Partnership

- At school level we promote anti-bullying strategies through our PSCHE curriculum and also through a whole school focus during Anti-Bullying Week every November.
- A shared understanding of what constitutes bullying and a clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and appropriate actions will be helpful in ensuring that safety is regarded as everyone's responsibility.
- The support of parents in all matters relating to bullying is essential to reaching an effective long term outcome.
- Children and staff should be consulted and kept fully informed about anti-bullying strategies.
- A multi-agency approach is necessary in dealing with serious incidents or where there are patterns of behaviour which give significant cause for concern.

6. The Curriculum

- The school will adopt a pro-active strategy to prevent bullying as part of the PSCHE Curriculum [Jigsaw Units covering 'Being Me', 'Celebrating Difference', 'Relationships']. Useful areas of the curriculum to support anti bullying strategies include communication skills, citizenship, rights and responsibilities, conflict resolution and taking responsibility for health.
- The school will provide opportunities to listen to the children and discuss safely the issue of bullying through Circle Time, PSHCE, assemblies, Anti-Bullying & E-safety theme weeks/days and School Council.

Despite our best efforts to raise awareness of the effects of bullying in a proactive way it is important to recognize that incidents of bullying may still occur. When this is the case:

- The school will undertake to act in the best possible interests of members of our school community- investigating all allegations of bullying and responding appropriately.
- All reported incidents within school will be fully investigated.
- All parties will be kept fully informed as appropriate
- Incidents will be recorded
- Incidents of a racist nature will be dealt with according to Local Authority Guidance

7. Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy bi-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

