



Carr Dyke Schools Partnership Anti Bullying Policy

Agreed / Last Updated: July 2016

Signed Andrew Sewell Headteacher

Signed Rebecca Phillips Chair of Governors

Review: July 2018

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.

We are a values school and where we can we will always look to bring about reconciliation and forgiveness, but recognise that this is not always possible or appropriate.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying has the intention of hurting another person either physically or emotionally. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- 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 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, tweeting and facebook
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

We think it is important that children **understand the difference between bullying and falling out**, or feeling frustrated. We teach the children this difference in school Bullying: Happens over a period of time and is not a one off. It can be physical attacks but more often or not is sly comments and little nudges, children 'accidentally on purpose' walking into others, invading personal space and taking or damaging property, deliberately isolating children **with the help of others**. There is **thought and planning** and the persuasion of others to join in. Intolerance of children who are 'different' from them, not as good at something or better; it is very one sided and not brought on through goading by both sides.

Falling out:

- Children upset that someone has changed their game in a way they don't want,
- An argument about the fairness of rules,
- Someone not wanting to be a best friend,
- Children wanting to play in a pair but not wanting another child to join in.
- A squabble over a piece of equipment,
- A game that has got too rough and someone has got hurt,
- A swear word or punch in the heat of a moment of a competitive game,
- A broken promise.

It happens between children who are good friends most of the time.

In school we expect children to fall out from time to time, it's a natural part of growing up, it's the little knocks and upsets which seem the 'end of the world' at the time but teach us about relationships. Fall outs can be emotionally very painful. Younger children don't have the social skills to deal with things that don't go their way, and just like toddlers have tantrums, infant children have fall outs. With ***calm thoughtful support from adults*** we aim to teach them to say sorry, to have forgiveness and learn from the situation. It is very unusual to find younger children 'bullying' as they live from minute to minute and don't really plan ahead simply respond to their emotions. Even with older children there are very few who really deliberately bully; when they do it can be very cruel.

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 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.
- 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 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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of suspected bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff (see record sheet) A plan will be put in place that can be monitored to establish if bullying is taking place. Parents of both parties will be informed.
3. In serious cases, parents of all parties should be informed and will be asked to come in to 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. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
7. If deemed necessary the school will seek professional advice and support to deal with root causes and to support pupils who have been affected.

8. Where it is established that bullying has taken place a written plan will be produced and shared with relevant parties.
9. If bullying takes place between members of staff, the issue will be dealt with immediately and school disciplinary procedures will be followed.

Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. .
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered. Sanctions such as loss of privileges and play time will be applied
- 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.
- 5) Parents will be kept informed and involved at all stages.

Prevention

The school will seek to prevent bullying through a range of methods including:

- The development of emotional literacy.
- Circle time.
- We are 'Values Schools'
- School rules drafted and reviewed by the school council.
- Named teacher counsellor.
- An open door policy for parents to express concerns.

Carr Dyke Schools Partnership acknowledges that this policy is an adaptation of material provided by Kidscape.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	020 7354 8321
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support , links and advice.

