

PURBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



POLICY STATEMENT ON BULLYING

Introduction

This policy is not an indication that there is a major problem of bullying at Purbrook Junior School, but rather evidence of our determination to provide a safe and secure environment for all children who wish to come to school to work and behave properly.

Definition

Bullying is widely considered to involve the misuse of power by one or more individuals over others, with the intention of causing distress or personal gain. It takes many forms including:

- Nasty teasing
- Violence
- Threats
- Rumours being spread
- Theft or money being demanded
- Personal problems made public by others
- Pressure to conform
- Exclusion from the group
- Damage to personal property
- The internet and using social media (Facebook, text messaging, Instant Messaging) in order to facilitate the above.

School Values

The set of values which the school stands for includes:

telling the truth, keeping promises, respecting the rights and property of others, acting in a considerate manner to others, helping those who are weaker or less fortunate than ourselves, taking responsibility for one's own actions and self-discipline.

The school rejects the following:

aggressive behaviour, bullying, cyber bullying, cheating, cruelty, deceit, discrimination on grounds of race, gender or belief, sexual orientation, economic well being, dishonesty, irresponsibility and the use of bad language.

It is obvious, therefore, that Purbrook Junior School rejects bullying in any form.

Preventing Bullying

The school, parents and children can all play their part in preventing bullying.

The school will:

- Raise the children's awareness of how to avoid being bullied and the types of bullying
- Make it clear at all times that bullying is unacceptable

- Seek to make clear to all children what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Provide supervision during the school day
- Encourage children to help and support each other if they suspect another child is being bullied
- At regular and appropriate intervals deliver assemblies relating to bullying.

Children should:

- Behave in a considerate manner to all other children
- Behave in a manner which is not likely to provoke an aggressive response from others
- Support each other if bullying is suspected and report it.
- Not retaliate when provoked, but report the matter to a member of staff

Parents can:

- Be on the alert for signs that their child may be subject to bullying (see attached sheet)
- Discuss their concerns with the school
- Discourage their child from all forms of aggressive behaviour

Responding if bullying is suspected

Parents should

- Talk to their child to try to establish exactly what is happening
- Contact their child's classteacher in the first instance, especially if the alleged bullying is taking place within the classroom.
- Contact the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher if the bullying is serious or persistent
- Explain to their child the procedures outlined in these notes and how they should respond.

Children should

- Tell someone at school that there is a problem (*initially their classteacher or another adult exercising supervision at the time of the alleged incident*)
- Tell the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher if the bullying is serious or persistent
- Report back to the adult who dealt with the original incident or a key member of staff if the problem persists

The school will

- Investigate all alleged bullying incidents reported to a member of staff
- Seek to resolve the problem rather than apportioning blame
- Seek to reassure and protect the victim and give clear guidance as to who are the key members of staff to seek help from if the problem happens again
- Inform parents if their child is involved in persistent bullying either as a victim or culprit
- Invoke disciplinary measures in cases where persistent bullying has taken place and previous measures have not succeeded in preventing further bullying

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ADVICE TO PARENTS REGARDING BULLYING

Be on the alert for signs of bullying, these may include:

- Items of clothing, property, school work, etc. that are damaged or lost more often than you would consider to be normal.
- Frequent injuries to the child (bruises, cuts, etc.).
- The child becoming withdrawn and a reluctance to say why.
- Spending a lot of time in their bedroom, possibly crying; who find it difficult to sleep, wet the bed or have nightmares.
- Educational attainment being slowly or suddenly reduced.
- A reluctance to go to school
- Requests to be accompanied going to and from school, or to go by a different route. If this is longer than the previous one, it could well indicate that bullying had been occurring along the previous route.
- Coming home hungry. This could be due to a bully, demanding their "dinner" money.
- Money in the house or school going missing.
- Depression in the child. Reluctance to eat or play normally. Youngster appears generally unhappy, miserable, moody and/or irritable.

Taken individually, the above may not be due to bullying, but a combination of even some of these signs could be a good reason to suspect it. If a child is showing signs of, or is experiencing any of the above, it can be an indication that all is not well, the child is not happy and therefore, whatever the cause, it should be investigated.

ADVICE TO CHILDREN

How to protect yourself

- If someone, or a group, continually makes your time unpleasant, tell an adult
- Always tell someone. This is not telling tales
- Stay with a group - to be alone is to be vulnerable
- Stay in sight of peers and adults
- Stay calm. Walk quietly and confidently away - dramatic reactions only encourage and entertain bullies
- Try to arrive earlier, later or choose a different route
- Leave expensive items at home. If you are asked to lend an expensive item make an excuse
- If you have a nickname, try to get used to it. Learn to be able to laugh at it
- Are you being provocative - ask for advice