

Barwic Parade Community Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy

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Headteacher	Miss Sarah Dixon
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Signed:

Position: Chair of Governors

Date: 25th November 2024

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Barwic Parade Community Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Rationale

Everyone at Barwic Parade Community Primary School has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. This will ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of discrimination or being bullied and that staff are able to work in a caring and safe environment.

Bullying of any sort prevents this being able to happen and prevents equality of opportunity. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent this happening and this policy contains guidelines to support this ethos.

Where bullying exists the victims must feel confident to activate the anti-bullying systems within the school to end the bullying. It is our aim to challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for bullied pupils and help build an anti-bullying ethos in the school.

This document outlines how we make this possible within our school.

Definitions of Bullying

We use the anti-bullying alliance definition of bullying:

“Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.” We differentiate between bullying and other unkind behaviour by testing the behaviours against key criteria:

Is it hurtful?

Is it repetitive?

Is it intentional?

Does it involve an imbalance of power?

Bullying behaviours will meet all four of these.

The three main types of bullying are:

- Physical (eg hitting, kicking, theft)
- Verbal (eg name calling, racist or homophobic remarks, ridicule, threatening violence)
- Indirect (eg spreading rumours, excluding someone, cyber-bullying)

The school works hard to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and simply “falling out”.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone. There are many types of cyberbullying. Although there may be some of which we are unaware, here are the more common:

1. **Text messages** that are threatening or cause discomfort
2. **Picture / video-clips** via mobile phone cameras - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed
3. **Mobile phone calls:** silent calls or abusive messages or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible
4. **Emails:** threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name
5. **Chatroom bullying:** menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a webbased chatroom
6. **Instant messaging (IM):** unpleasant messages sent while children conduct realtime conversations online
7. **Bullying via websites:** use of defamatory blogs, personal websites and social networking sites eg Facebook, Twitter

How is cyberbullying different?

Bullying is bullying wherever and however it takes place. Cyberbullying is a method of bullying that uses ICT to upset, threaten or humiliate someone and has the following key characteristics:

- Cyberbullying can take place at any time, in any location; technology allows the user to bully anonymously
- Cyberbullying can occur on vast and rapid scale
- Electronic content is very hard to control; it can never be guaranteed to be removed totally from circulation
- Bullies can take actions to attempt to be anonymous and can feel 'distanced' from the incident
- 'Bystanders' can easily become perpetrators
- The 'profile' of a cyberbully or a target varies – age / size is not an issue
- Cyberbullying can occur unintentionally often due to a lack of awareness / empathy – 'It was only a joke'

Cyberbullying leaves no physical scars so it is, perhaps, less evident to a parent or teacher, but it is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe. Young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology, an area that can seem a closed world to adults (eg the numerous acronyms used by young people - POS - Parents Over Shoulder, TUL – Tell You Later); this makes it difficult for adults to recognise potential threats.

At Barwic Parade Community Primary School, we take this bullying as seriously as all other types of bullying and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually. An episode of bullying will result in a parental discussion initially. Consequences will be decided according to severity. The school will deal with cyber-bullying incidents that are brought to their attention which have taken place out of school and will inform parents appropriate. Mobile technology is not allowed to be brought to school by pupils- this includes mobile phones and Ipads.

Actions to Tackle Bullying

Prevention is better than cure so at Barwic Parade we will be vigilant for signs of bullying and always take reports of incidents seriously. We will use the curriculum to reinforce the ethos and values of the school and help pupils to develop strategies to combat bullying-type behaviour. We will also hold at least one anti-bullying week each academic year, usually in November. The date for this event is set nationally.

Pupils are told that they must report any incidence of bullying to an adult within school, and that when another pupil tells them that they are being bullied or if they see bullying taking place it is their responsibility to report their knowledge to a member of staff.

All reported incidents of bullying will be logged on CPOMs, investigated and taken seriously by staff members. The Class teacher is responsible for reporting any incidents to the Headteacher, once they have investigated themselves. Follow up will then be the responsibility of the class teacher with support from the Head/Deputy. If bullying includes racist or homophobic abuse then it should be reported to the Headteacher to be recorded in officially. Incidents of this kind must be reported to the LA, though individual pupil/ staff names are not shared.

Upon discovery of an incident of bullying, we will discuss with the children the issues appropriate to the incident and to their age and level of understanding. In many cases, children are unaware of the extent of the hurt caused through their actions. We will use Restorative practices and Restorative conversations where both parties are brought together with an adult and asked to express their feelings (this is carefully timed and sensitively approached). The adult remains neutral and deliberately avoids direct, closed questioning which may be interpreted as accusatory or interrogational in style. Each pupil is given an opportunity to talk and the discussion remains focused on finding a solution to the problem and stopping the bullying recurring. At times it is more appropriate to ask the children involved to provide a simple written account, in their own words, of what took place.

Circle Time will be used as a vehicle for discussion. This is an effective way of sharing information and provides a forum for discussing important issues such as equal rights, relationships, justice and acceptable behaviour.

Punitive measures will be used appropriately and may include:

- Missing breaks or lunchtimes
 - Exclusion from certain areas of school or particular activities for a fixed period of time
- In extreme cases, the Headteacher may also consider:
- Internal exclusion
 - External fixed term exclusion
 - Permanent exclusion

Parental Involvement

The parents of bullies will be informed and asked to support strategies proposed to tackle the problem. The parents of victims will also be informed explaining that it will be taken seriously and dealt with by a member of SLT, usually the Headteacher. The bully will also be reminded of the possible consequences of bullying and the sanctions for repeated incidents will be clearly explained to him/her.

Children are reminded through PHSE to tell someone if they should ever be bullied. Keeping information from the school, or from their parents, will never help a problem to be solved, and will prolong the period a victim has to suffer. Where necessary we have and will call on outside resources. This policy works alongside our Positive Behaviour and Thrive Policy.