

JACOBSTOW COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

The school aims:

It is our aim that...



we challenge our children to achieve the necessary skills to face the future and live independently knowing how to make the most of the opportunities afforded to them



by offering a secure and caring environment which nurtures their emotional and spiritual wellbeing they are enabled to lead happy and healthy lives



our children will develop an enjoyment for learning and take pleasure and pride in their achievements



our children will respect and value decision making processes and become self confident, active and responsive members of their communities



our children will see new experiences as an adventure, developing a curiosity and excitement for learning that creates independent thinkers

We believe that every child has the right to attend school without threat to their personal safety or peace of mind, and to be cared for in a safe environment.

The school will promote and encourage children and adults to behave towards each other with respect, care and trust.

Anti-social or bullying behaviour will be challenged.

What is bullying?

Bullying can take many forms. It can be physical, verbal or psychological intimidation.

Bullying is the conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else.

Bullying in the form of emotional or psychological aggression is less apparent but extremely painful and damaging to victims.

Aims of this Policy are to:

1. Preventing Bullying
2. Dealing with Bullying
3. Building on existing school policies
4. Using the curriculum

Preventing Bullying

Bullying in school is everybody's problem. Silence and secrecy nurture bullying.

All staff, parents and children must be aware that bullying exists and through recognition of this fact and the shared commitment to combat bullying, the school will become a happier place for everybody.

All parents, pupils and staff need to be very clear about the school's policy and procedures on bullying.

What can the school do?

- Provide regular opportunities for children and staff to discuss issues through PHSE and activities such as circle time.
- Ensure that children know that bullying is an on-going situation and not part of everyday short-term disagreements.
- Listen to the child's and parent's concerns and investigate matters as soon as possible.
- Provide an area where concerns can be discussed confidentially.
- Listen to the facts as presented by those involved and decide if further action needs to be taken.
- Decide if the matter can be resolved through discussion – either individually or as a group – where no blame will be attached.
- If the problem cannot be resolved and the bullying continues the school will plan further observations and assessments.
- If it becomes apparent that a child or group of children have been causing upset or injury to others then the individual or group will be spoken to by the headteacher regarding their future behaviour with regard to the school Behaviour Policy. Sanctions may be used e.g. loss of playtime and parents will be informed of their children's unacceptable behaviour.
- Should the behaviour continue it would ultimately result in exclusion from school.
- We will include governors fully in carrying out this policy.

What can I do as a child?

- I will not bully other people, even when I am playing.
- If I feel I am being bullied I must talk to someone who can help me.
- I will tell a member of staff what is worrying me.
- I can talk to a member of staff privately.
- I need to feel safe.
- I will try to make other children feel safe.
- I will work and play co-operatively.
- I can talk about my feelings and will listen to other people's feelings.
- I will be responsible for what I do but must not be afraid to ask for help.

What can I do as a parent?

- I will find time to talk to my child about their day.
 - I will listen to their concerns and worries.
 - I will look out for signs that my child is unhappy.
 - I will try to find out what the cause of the problem is and if it is a one-off incident or an on-going problem.

- I will ask myself - who is upsetting my child? Is it one particular child, a group of children or an adult? Can my child provide names?
- I will find out
 - where and when any incidents took place.
 - what sort of bullying it is – verbal, emotional, sexual harassment or physical attacks.
 - how long the bullying has been going on.
- I will tell the school as soon as possible.
- I will make an appointment so the problem can be discussed in confidence.
- I will give the staff the opportunity to solve the problem.
- I will go back and discuss what the staff have observed.
- I will be prepared to accept the observations of the staff. (There are times when the child can be both the bully and the victim).
- If the bullying continues I will inform the school.
- If the problem persists I will attend a meeting with the headteacher, parents and children involved.

If you come across bullying what can you do?

First steps: do -

- remain calm; you are in charge. Reacting emotionally may add to the bully's fun and give the bully control of the situation
- take the incident or report seriously
- be seen to take action as quickly as possible
- think hard about whether your action needs to be private or public; who are the pupils involved?
- reassure the victim(s), don't make them feel inadequate or foolish
- offer help, advice and support to the victim(s)
- make it plain to the bully that you disapprove
- encourage the bully to see the victim's point of view.

Involving others to:

do -

- inform school, the Headteacher and the class teacher.
- inform colleagues so that all staff are aware and have the information they need to respond if necessary
- inform the Headteacher
- inform both sets of parents calmly, clearly and concisely; reassure both sets of parents that the incident will be dealt with and support given to all children involved both the bullied and the bully.

Final steps:

do -

- make sure the incident doesn't live on through reminders from you

- try to think ahead to prevent a recurrence of the incident, if you uncover the trigger factor
- ensure all reports are completed.
- ensure that the head is kept informed
- in discussion with the head, colleagues and other professionals come up with strategies to resolve the problems

If you have to deal with bullying, what should you avoid?

Don't -

- be over protective and refuse to allow the victim to help him/herself
- assume that the bully is bad through and through; try to look objectively at the behaviour, with the bully
- keep the whole incident a secret because you have dealt with it.
- try to hide the incident from the parents of the victim or of the bully
- call in the parents without having a constructive plan to offer either side.

Supporting the pupils

We must ensure that all pupils know that the school cares about bullying. Pupils need to know that they should speak out. Pupils need to be aware that every teacher has made a commitment to help pupils. The school's anti-bullying policy will be made clear to all new intakes of pupils.

We must all work together through the curriculum, assemblies, displays in order to get the message across. The Whole School Staff Team will play a vital role in monitoring the successful implementation of the policy. Pupils will be given opportunities to talk about bullying in general.

At the beginning of each academic year pupils and staff and parents will all work together to review the anti-bullying strategies and reinforce the message that bullying will not be tolerated at Jacobstow Community Primary School.

Supervision of key areas/time in school

All staff must be alert and observant at all times both inside and outside the classroom e.g. playground, the hall, corridors, staircases and toilet areas. The lunch time period is a time when pupils are most at risk and could be exposed to bullying.

Midday Supervisors must communicate daily with class teachers to ensure that all children feel safe and secure.

Daily verbal reports must be given of any issues/incidents by Midday Supervisors to class teachers at 1.00pm.

Every incident must be recorded in the school's record book by the member of staff witnessing the incident.

All the reports will be entered in the record book and signed by the relevant class teachers as a record that they have been informed by the M.S.

After Midday Supervisors have reported to class teachers they then report any incidents to the Headteacher.

At break times (playground, moving around the building etc.) all staff must be vigilant at all times. Any incident involving bullying is to be reported straight away to the Headteacher.

In classrooms teachers need to be aware of hidden indicators of possible bullying e.g. body language, pupils who seem withdrawn or isolated, whilst the underlying cause may not necessarily be bullying all concerns must be discussed with the Headteacher.

Building on the school's existing policies

The school's Aims and Objectives and Vision statement, Behaviour Policy, Home School Agreement, Equal Opportunities Policy, Personal, Health and Social Education Policy and school code of conduct have very clear guidelines regarding what constitutes acceptable/unacceptable behaviour towards other people. The Anti-Bullying initiatives reflect the principles contained in these documents.

POLICY FOR CYBERBULLYING

General Aims in ICT

The school's aim is that:

- children should achieve enjoyment of and excellence in the study of ICT
- all children should acquire the skills necessary to enable them to make a positive contribution to their community
- all children should acquire the skills necessary to enable them to achieve future economic well being
- each pupil should achieve the highest level of performance of which he or she is capable in all aspects of ICT.

What is cyberbullying?

"Cyberbullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself."¹

Seven categories of cyberbullying have been identified:

- Text message bullying involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
 - Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. 'Happy slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks.
 - Phone call bullying via mobile phone uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person's phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else's phone to avoid being identified.
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- Email bullying uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- Chat room bullying involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- Bullying through instant messaging (IM) is an Internet-based form of bullying where children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations online.
- Bullying via websites includes the use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal polling sites. There has also been a significant increase in social networking sites for young people, which can provide new opportunities for cyberbullying.

What can we do about it?

While other forms of bullying remain prevalent, cyberbullying is already a significant issue for many young people. Jacobstow School recognises that staff, parents and young people need to work together to prevent this and to tackle it whenever it occurs.

We have a duty to ensure that:

- bullying via mobile phone or the Internet is included in our mandatory anti-bullying policies; these policies are regularly updated, and our teachers are gaining the knowledge to deal with any incidents of cyberbullying in school.

Jacobstow School ensures that:

- the curriculum teaches pupils about the risks of new communications technologies, the consequences of their misuse, and how to use them safely including personal rights
- all e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored
- clear policies are set about the use of mobile phones at school and at other times when young people are under the school's authority
- Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked
- they work with pupils and parents to make sure new communications technologies are used safely, taking account of local and national guidance and good practice
- security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being accessed improperly from outside school
- they work with police and other partners on managing any serious incidents of cyberbullying.

ICT and Mobile Phone Policy

Children are not allowed Mobile phones in school; any found are confiscated and returned to children at the end of the school day and parents informed of the situation.

However, if a cyberbullying incident directed at a child occurs using e-mail or mobile phone technology, whilst in school or whilst involved on a school initiated activity we will take the following steps:

- Advise the child not to respond to the message
- Refer to relevant policies, e.g. e-safety/acceptable use , anti-bullying and PSHE and apply appropriate sanctions
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Inform the sender's e-mail service provider
- Notify parents of the children involved
- Offer the opportunity for a parent workshop for the school community
- Consider informing the police depending on the severity or repetitious nature of the offence. The school recognises that some cyberbullying activities could be a criminal offence under a range of different laws including: the Protection from Harassment Act 1997; the Malicious Communication Act 1988; section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and the Public Order Act 1986
- Inform the SWG4L lead: 01872 322765

If malicious or threatening comments are posted on an Internet site or Social Networking Site about a pupil or member of staff, the school will also:

- Inform and request that the comments be removed if the site is administered externally
- Secure and preserve any evidence
- Send all the evidence to www.ceop.gov.uk/contact_us.html if of a sexual nature
- Endeavour to trace the origin and inform the police as appropriate.
- Inform the SWG4L lead: Jane McFall 01872 322765

Working with Parents

Jacobstow School has developed a home-school agreement that includes clear statements about e-communications. The school seeks to regularly update parents on:

- What to do if problems arise
- E-communication standards and practices in school
- What's being taught in the curriculum
- Supporting parents and pupils if cyberbullying occurs by:
 - ✓ Assessing the harm done
 - ✓ Identifying those involved
 - ✓ Taking steps to repair harm and to prevent recurrence

Code of Conduct

We have developed a code of conduct with our pupils. This is available in the ICT suite.

This policy applied to our preschool children too.

This policy will be reviewed annually.