

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (INCLUDING CYBER-BULLYING)

Written: November 2011

Last Review: January 2015

Next Review: January 2016

Statement of Intent

At Riverside, 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 listening and telling school.** This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the **use of aggression with the intention of hurting and intimidating another person.**

Bullying **results in pain and distress to the victim.**

Bullying is **Several Times On Purpose** (S.T.O.P.)

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures, etc.)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, etc.
- 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, etc.
- Cyber All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse
Telephone threats by text messaging & calls
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

A bully is someone who knowingly commits unkind acts [either verbal or physical] towards an individual or group **SEVERAL TIMES ON PURPOSE.**

A victim of bullying is the unwilling recipient of those unprovoked acts.

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. Research demonstrates that victims of bullying can have deteriorating levels of attainment / attendance as a direct result of bullying.

Objectives of the this Policy

- That all governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is.
- That all governors and teaching and non-teaching staff know what the school policy is on bullying, and accept collective responsibility for its implementation.
- That all pupils and parents know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- That as a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- That we ensure we promote a positive and safe learning environment where bullying is not be tolerated.
- That we promote inclusion, tolerance, mutual respect and self-worth amongst all.

Signs and Symptoms – at home and at school

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
- begins truanting
- becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- begins to do poorly in school work
- 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 unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Problems sleeping or bedwetting
- Lack of appetite or excessive comfort eating
- Developing a tendency to stammer
- Being secretive about their mobile phone, their time on the internet or avoiding certain phone calls
- Is afraid to use the internet or a mobile phone
- Is nervous and jumpy when a cyber message is received
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged

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

Procedure for dealing with Bullying

1. Any pupils, parents and others need to report bullying incidents, including cyber-bullying issues, to members of teaching staff. Teachers and strategic leadership team staff members (Head, Deputy Head etc) will be the persons involved with handling incidents of bullying.
2. Opportunities will be given to resolve the situation with all parties involved.
3. In cases of bullying, this will be recorded in the behaviour book.
4. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
5. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted

6. The bullying behaviour or threats will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
7. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may also take place depending on the individual case for example, detention, removal from playground, exclusion from lunchtime etc
2. In serious cases, temporary or permanent exclusion will be considered.
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.

Prevention

We will use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying as and when they are appropriate. These will include:

- A clear set of school rules, which are referred to often (and on display around the school).
- Promotion of an emotionally literate atmosphere.
- Opportunities to share feelings and have discussions about bullying and why it matters, e.g. through lessons which focus on emotions, relationships, social situations etc (SEAL, PSHE lessons)
- Involvement in Anti-bullying Week and Internet Safety Day activities, e.g. drawing, poems, posters, role play, etc.
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly.
- Opportunities to speak to staff in private.
- Sampling of pupils' views on their understanding of what bullying is.

Reviewing the Policy

This policy will be shared with staff, parents and pupils and reviewed annually or when the need arises.

HELP ORGANISATIONS

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE (Parents Helpline, Mon-Fri 10-4)	0845 205204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

You can visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.