

GARSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



A Curriculum Policy statement for: Anti-Bullying

When people hear of "bullying", they are rightly shocked. It is a nasty thing which has no place in our world. A lot of things happen in school, some of which are not pleasant, but which are **not** bullying. We take great care to separate genuine cases of bullying from those incidents which are more about children learning how to deal with each other.

After much discussion, the staff and Governors of Garswood Primary School have decided to have a written Anti-Bullying Policy to show to all children, parents and staff that bullying, either physical or verbal, is **NOT** tolerated in school. Moreover, everyone will be expected to ensure that bullying does not happen and will have a responsibility to "tell" – emphasising that this is not "telling tales".

What is Bullying?

A child is bullied when one or more children expose him/her repeatedly and over time to physical or verbal abuse. The attacks or assaults need not necessarily be direct but may take a less visible and indirect form, such as isolation and exclusion from the group. Bullying knows no boundaries of age, sex or background.

What are the Possible Signs of Bullying?

Children may:

- Be frightened of walking to or from school;
- Be unwilling to go to school;
- Beg a parent to take them to school;
- Begin doing poorly in their school work;
- Come home regularly with property or clothes destroyed;
- Become withdrawn;

- Start stammering;
- Become distressed;
- Stop eating;
- Cry themselves to sleep;
- Have nightmares and even call out “Leave me alone”;
- Have unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts;
- Their possessions “go missing”;
- Refuse to say what's wrong;
- Constantly complain of headaches, stomach pains or seem anxious;
- Give improbable excuses to explain any of the afore-mentioned.

What Can Parents Do?

Take a *sensible* approach. Listen and investigate. The child must be told that he/she is undoubtedly not the only victim and that there is nothing wrong with him/her. It is essential that parents are particularly loving and sympathetic towards their bullied children. **Every opportunity should be taken to enhance their self-esteem. Bullied children should not be encouraged to hit back.** Usually, though not always, the bully is physically stronger. Children must be encouraged to tell their parents. The child or parent must inform the Class Teacher or Head Teacher.

What Can School Do?

Teachers will work to educate children on the difference between “telling tales” and “reporting bullies”. Children, especially the younger ones, do not always understand this. If their child sees bullying, parents should encourage them to report this. By reporting the incident, they are helping the victim and the bully.

While it is distressing for most parents to discover that their child is the victim of bullying, it can be equally upsetting for the parents to learn that their child is a bully. The bully is usually an insecure person and he/she needs help. Teachers will work with these children in order to make them see how sad

their behaviour makes others feel. We will always be positive, taking the view that “we can stop the bullies”.

Mechanisms for Involving Children in Developments Relating to Bullying and Harassment

- There are notices on the Healthy Schools Notice Board giving children advice about bullying.
- There are positive posters around the school made by the children and children are encouraged to talk about bullying.
- Assemblies take place where pupils are encouraged to speak to their teachers.
- The school takes part in annual Anti-Bullying Week and workshops for Years 5 and 6 run by the LEA.
- We follow the SEAL program from Reception to Year 6.

Procedure for Investigating Alleged Incidents of Bullying

1. All reports of bullying, no matter how trivial, will be noted, investigated and dealt with by teachers. A record of all allegations will be kept in the Class Incident Book.
2. Parents of victims and parents of bullies will be informed so they will be in a position to help and support their children.
3. In any alleged incident of bullying, the Class Teacher or Head Teacher will speak separately to the pupils involved and will make written notes of details given in an attempt to get both sides of the story. Questions will be asked such as:
 - “What kind of bullying has taken place?”
 - “Where did the incident(s) take place?”
 - “When did the bullying happen?”
 - “Who did the bullying?”
4. Should more than one person be involved, each child will be interviewed individually and then the group will meet with the Teacher or Head Teacher. Each member of the group will then be asked for

his/her account of what happened to ensure that everyone is clear what everyone else said.

5. If it is concluded that a pupil has been engaged in bullying behaviour, it will be made clear to him/her that he/she is in breach of the agreed Code of Behaviour. The Head Teacher will contact the parents and ask them to call to the school to discuss the incident(s).
6. A course of action will be agreed between the Head Teacher, the parents and the child and a review date of this action will be set. Meetings will take place within two weeks with the bully and the victim separately to ensure there is no further bullying.

We feel that by taking incidents of “bullying” (however rare) very seriously indeed, we can help our children realise that there are better ways of settling disputes or dealing with upsets. Working in partnership with you, the parents, Garswood Primary School will become an even better place for children to enjoy their years of primary education.

Approved by Governors Summer 2012
To be reviewed Summer 2014
By the Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee