

Anti Bullying Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

At Glyncollen Primary School 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 Glyncollen Primary School. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that the incident will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a 'listening' school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is taking place is expected to tell a member of staff.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the repeated use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, giving 'funny' or nasty looks, using a 'funny' voice to cause distress
- Physical Pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, punching or any use of violence
- Racist Racial taunts, gestures, graffiti, refusing to sit by / work with someone, isolating/excluding because of race.
- Sexual Unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments
- Verbal Name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Homophobic Because of or focussing on the issue of sexuality

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. This is why we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow this policy when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that she/he is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a child:-

- Is frightened of walking to or from school.
- Begs to be driven to school.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to school.
- Begins truanting.
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence.
- Starts stammering.
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away.
- Cry themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares.
- Feels ill in the morning.
- Begins to do poorly in school work.
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged.
- Have possessions gone 'missing'.
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully).
- Continually loses dinner money or other monies.
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises.
- Comes home particularly hungry (money/lunch has been stolen).
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable.
- Is bullying other children or siblings.
- Stops eating.
- Is frightened to say what is wrong.
- Gives improbable excuse for any of the above.

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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incident to a member of staff.
2. In cases of bullying, the incident will be recorded in the class incident book.
3. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be informed.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped immediately.
6. An attempt will be made to work with the bully/bullies to change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully/bullies may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences will be considered if the bullying is serious, or if it is not the first instance.
2. Restorative practices may be used if the victim wishes to be involved in the resolution process.

3. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
4. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
5. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be very closely monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

The school will use appropriate approaches and methodologies for helping children to prevent bullying. Approaches already used include:

- Zero tolerance of any form of bullying
- Developing and following a school and class rights and responsibilities charter, (yearly).
- Regular anti bullying awareness through assemblies and class work, Anti-bullying leaflets, including working with Childline.
- Carrying out research in the form of questionnaires to children
- Restorative Practice
- Counselling
- Drama/role-play activities.
- P4C activities focussing on aspects of bullying.
- Having discussions about bullying, how to stop it and why it matters to tell if it is seen or experienced.

Revised September 2018