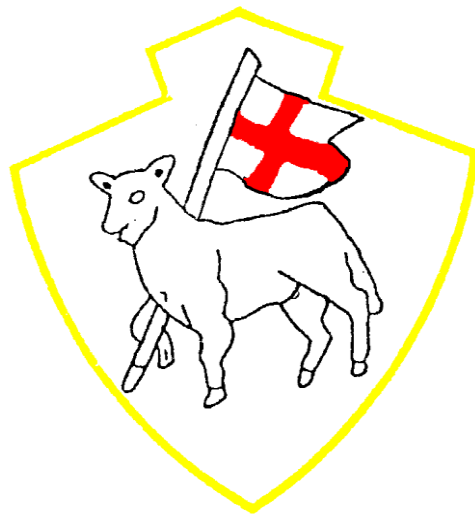


Ysgol Gynradd Cwmnedd Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy

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Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

It is a Welsh Assembly Government requirement that all schools have an anti-bullying policy.

Government guidance defines bullying as actions that are meant to be hurtful, and which happen on a regular basis. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (for example, being ignored or not spoken to).

Aims and objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

Definition

Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, whether it is physical, sexual, verbal or psychological.

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, **repeated over a period of time**, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

The four main types of bullying are:

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- Sexual (problematic / harmful behaviours')
- Verbal (name calling, racist remarks)
- Psychological (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups).

Children must be encouraged to report bullying in school to a teacher or staff member.

This policy is designed to ensure that as a school we are alert to signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it.

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. Children who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. Bullying can cause stress and can affect a child's health.

Schools and parents have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Parents are politely requested not to approach children with regards to inappropriate behavior but to inform the Headteacher.

Aims

At Cwmnedd Primary we aim to:

- To respect individuals.

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- Promote a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behaviour.
- Ensure all teaching and non-teaching staff, children and parents have an understanding of what bullying is. Inform children and parents of the school's expectations and to foster a productive partnership, which helps maintain a bully-free environment. Show commitment to overcoming bullying by practising zero tolerance. Identify and deal with incidents of bullying consistently and effectively.

Signs and Symptoms

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
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence starts stammering
- attempts or threatens self-harm
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares/bedwetting
- regularly feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions go "missing"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes unreasonable when dealing with school issues
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

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

Prevention

To fulfill our aims, the following strategies are used:

- Constant monitoring of school buildings and grounds to ensure a safe and secure environment is maintained.
- Involvement of all school staff to ensure a consistent approach is in evidence
- An open door policy in the school.
- Encouraging children and parents to report bullying.
- Raising awareness of bullying.
- Buddy systems.

Procedures

It is recognised that incidents of bullying occur in all schools. It is essential that all such incidents are taken seriously and dealt with in an appropriate manner. A child or parent may report an incident to any member of staff, but the responsibility for ensuring all incidents are consistently dealt with lies jointly with the class teacher, and the Headteacher.

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The class teacher and Headteacher will be in charge of the recording and overseeing of incidents. The Headteacher will be responsible for embedding anti-bullying awareness in the policies and practices of the school.

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached.
- Staff investigate alleged bullying by consulting the victim(s).
- If it is felt that an incident of bullying has taken place, then it will be taken seriously and investigated. A member of staff wishing to report an incident of bullying should approach the Headteacher.
- The member of staff and the Headteacher should reach an agreement as to whether this incident constitutes bullying or should be addressed as an incident of poor behaviour.
- If deemed to be bullying, the Headteacher will speak to the pupils involved and proceed accordingly. If the matter can be resolved in school without the need for parental contact then this will be done and monitored by the appropriate member of staff and Headteacher. It may be decided that parents should be informed immediately and this will be done by the Headteacher. A written copy of events will be kept and this will be updated until the situation has been resolved.
- In serious cases parents will be informed that their child has been subject to bullying. The parents of the perpetrator(s) will also be contacted via telephone or letter and offered a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss incident.
- Sanctions will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned in accordance with the school's behaviour and discipline policy and in consultation with the local authority.

Support

Victim

A safe environment gives messages to those who may be targeted that they have rights to be safe and permission to raise concerns no matter how low key or the nature of the bullying – physical, sexual, verbal or psychological.

Support for the victim is essential both immediately following the incident and during an agreed period of review. Peer support, staff support, parental support and outside agency support may all be essential to ensure that the victim does not suffer any long term effects.

After a period of time staff will meet with the victim to reassess the situation and the relationship between those involved.

Children who have been bullied will be supported by: Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice

- Reassuring the child
- Offering continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.
- Perpetrator(s)
- It is recognised that support must be given to the perpetrator. Disciplinary procedures against the perpetrator(s) are intended to change or modify behaviour rather than label anyone as a bully. Such procedures may include:
 - Positive behaviour strategies
 - Withdrawal of activities

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- The establishment of mentoring or a buddy system
- Discussion about the effects of bullying
- Peer mediation
- Involvement of other agencies and services such as an Educational Psychologist and the Behaviour Support Team
- Working within a small group with the Behaviour and Support Teaching Assistant

Staff Responsibilities

All staff will be kept abreast of current thinking with regard to anti-bullying and if required, support will be given to implement this policy. All staff will be made aware of the implications of the school policies to bullying and racism.

Staff will be offered training on tackling bullying and safeguarding throughout the year or through professional development courses.

Governor Responsibilities

The governing body supports the head teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the head teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident can ask the chair of governors to look into the matter. The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases the governing body notifies the head teacher, and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case, and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

The role of the head teacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The head teacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.

The head teacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The head teacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the head teacher may decide to use an assembly as the forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.

The head teacher ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.

The head teacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

The role of the teacher and support staff

All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.

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If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will either investigate it themselves or refer it to the head teacher. Teachers and support staff do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the head teacher, the child's parents are informed.

Staff record all incidents of bullying that occur both in and out of class. We also record incidents that occur near the school, or on the children's way between school and home. Any adult who witnesses an act of bullying should record it in the school's "Bullying Incident Report File", located in the staffroom.

When any bullying takes place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. Time is spent talking to the child who has been bullying: explaining why his /her action was wrong and that child is encouraged to change his/her behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the head teacher and the special needs coordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the head teacher may contact external support agencies, such as the Behaviour Support Service.

All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.

Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. They use drama, role-play, stories etc., within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Through the curriculum we explore such issues as:

- Why do people bully each other?
- What are the effects of bullying on the bullied, on bullies, and on bystanders?
- What can we do to stop bullying?

Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere. The SEAL programme develops the pupils' social, emotional and behavioural skills and helps teach our pupils how to manage constructive relationships with others. The programme also contains specific anti-bullying materials the teachers utilise to promote the anti-bullying message and ethos of the school. Furthermore, the school makes the anti-bullying message a prime focus in the curriculum during National Anti-bullying week.

The role of parents

Parents, who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the head teacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed in the School Prospectus/Website.

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

The role of pupils

Pupils are encouraged to tell anybody they trust if they are being bullied, and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know.

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Pupils are invited to tell us their views about a range of school issues, including bullying, in pupil questionnaires and pupil Forum meetings with the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher.

Sanctions

Sanctions for pupils who bully and are hurtful to others are outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy and the class "Consequences Grid".

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the head teacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness regularly.

Signed: _____ **(Headteacher)**

_____ **(Chair of Governors)**

Date Approved by the Governing Body: _____

Date of Next Review: _____

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