

Anti-bullying Policy



Anti-Bullying Policy

Acorns Primary School is a special school for pupils with Moderate, Severe, Complex or profound and Multiple Learning difficulties. Many pupils have additional medical needs, which have direct implications on their ability to access the curriculum and the learning opportunities, which are provided within school.

This policy is guided by the advice and guidelines published by Lancashire Education Authority Keeping TABS. It dovetails with the school behaviour policy and takes references from Kidscape and the DfEE guidelines – bullying – don't suffer in silence (2000) Every Child Matters: Change for Children and Children Act 2004.

Statement of Intent

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 *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

The School Definition of bullying

Bullying is the 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 and tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures).
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Homophobic - because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality.
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- Cyber - All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse.

- Mobile threats by text messaging & calls.
- Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities.

Principles

Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. If appropriate the victim of bullying should be offered discussion and counselling.

School has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Procedure

1. Report bullying incidents to staff / SMT/ Head teacher – This will be noted in the incident book in heads office – giving details of names of pupils, behaviour, place and time of incident.
2. All cases of bullying concerning pupils will be noted in the Incident Book. – (Adult to Child and Child to Child including Others out of school).
3. Cases of Adult to Adult bullying will be dealt with by the Headteacher and SMT (where appropriate)
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 of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
7. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Class teacher actions

1. Note where and when the occurrences have taken place & reported by whom.
2. Raise awareness in department/ class staff meeting if appropriate.
3. Raise issue through department assembly if appropriate.
4. Restructure layout/ management of times places when bullying is occurring.

Dealing with incidents

The class teacher needs to consider:

- The types of behaviour that are being highlighted.
- Which pupils are linked to these behaviours.
- Is further specific action required to deal with particular individuals.

- What planning could be put into operation in the short medium and long term?
- What curriculum issues need addressing.
- What strategies or approaches may be used.
- Inform supervisory staff when and where bullying may take place.
- Raise awareness in department/ class staff meeting if appropriate.
- Raise issue through department assembly if appropriate.
- Restructure layout/ management of times places when bullying is occurring.

Dealing with complaints from outside school

The Headteacher and class teacher will work in partnership when dealing with an external complaint.

Parents should be interviewed by the class teacher and a record of the meeting kept on file.

A record of action taken be made and agreed with the parent. A date for a further contact with parents should be made and a future meeting planned to monitor the situation.

Members of the public should be interviewed by the Headteacher and a record of the meeting kept. A date for further contact with the member of the public should be made to monitor the situation if considered necessary.

If at this stage the parent/ member of the public feel that the problem has not been resolved the school should reassess their handling of the situation.

The schools complaints procedure makes parents/ members of the public aware of their right to contact the Governing Body of the school and is outlined in the school prospectus.

Policy to be reviewed in February 2021