Safeguarding Update Issue 5

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Anti-Bullying

www.childline.org.uk

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If you have concerns about a child or wish to receive some form of support, please come and talk to a member of the safeguarding team.

Anti-Bullying at the Hollybrook Schools

This issue of the Safeguarding Update aims to give parents/carers information on what bullying is and the strategies that the Hollybrook Schools use to tackle bullying.

Children and parents/carers should be assured that we make every effort to prevent bullying from happening by actively promoting an anti-bullying environment across the schools. When incidents do occur, they are responded to swiftly with a follow up to ensure that there is no recurrence.

At the Hollybrook Schools we encourage children to **S**peak **O**ut **S**traightaway – this enables us to act as swiftly as possible and minimise the chance of it happening again.

The Hollybrook Schools view bullying as:
Something that is done lots of times on purpose

Ways Hollybrook try to prevent bullying:

- Through the school's curriculum with PSHE lessons focusing on bullying in each year group. These lessons teach children about the different types of bullying and how they can report something if they are worried.
- We also have regular assemblies which teach children about different aspects of bullying, such as cyber bullying.
- We have Anti-bullying Ambassadors who work hard across the schools to keep them as safe as possible.
- We have peer mediators who help to resolve issues in the playground.
- We have a young reporters club who publicise ideas about bullying to all children.
- All staff are aware of the anti-bullying policy and use it consistently.
- Children have been part of creating the current Anti-Bullying policy and annually sign the anti-bullying promise.
- We teach the children to **S**peak **O**ut **S**traight away within lessons and assemblies.

If you are concerned and you think your child is being bullied or is bullying someone please report to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

The Hollybrook Schools Anti-Bullying Promise

Bullying is lots of times and on purpose

We do not accept bullying at our schools and we do everything we can to stop it!

At the Hollybrook Schools, this is what we do to make our schools as happy and safe as possible:

- Treat everyone kindly and with respect in the same way we want to be treated
- We celebrate everyone's values, beliefs and individuality
- We are good friends to everyone
- We always make new people feel welcome
- We include others in our games, play and learning
- If we see bullying, we tell an adult what has happened – we **s**peak **o**ut **s**traight away

How Parents Can Help

- If your child is experiencing bullying, then reassure her/him explain to your child that should any further incidents occur s/he should report them to a teacher immediately.
- If you are worried that your child is being bullied, ask her/him directly.
- Take bullying seriously and find out the facts when told about an incident of bullying
- Don't agree to keep the bullying a secret.
- Give your child a chance to vent her/his feelings about being bullied
- Check that your child is not inviting the bullying by saying things which may upset others.
- Keep a written diary of all events.
- Talk with a teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if it is bullying that is happening at school.

If you are not satisfied

Families who feel that their concerns are not being addressed appropriately by the school might like to consider the following steps:

- Make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Assistant Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and keep a record of the meetings.
- If this does not help, meet with or write to the Head teacher explaining your concerns.
- Contact local or national parent support groups for advice.

IF YOUR CHILD IS A BULLY

- First, discourage your child from using bullying behaviour at home of elsewhere. Show them how to resolve difficult situations without using violence or aggression.

Sometimes children bully others because:

- They do not know it is wrong.
- They are copying older brothers or sisters or other people in the family whom they admire.
- They have not learnt other, better ways of mixing with their school friends.
- Their friends encourage them to bully.
- They are going through a difficult time and are acting out their aggressive feelings.

Further Help and Useful Websites:

https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

Help With Bullying (kidscape.org.uk)

Act Against Bullying. Leading UK Anti-Bullying Charity

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/

Children at school learn about the important role of a 'bystander' in reporting and stopping bullying. A bystander is a person who is present but does not take part. Children understand that it is not acceptable to be a bystander in a bullying incident and that they have a responsibility to report anything they have witnessed to an adult in school.