



Sleights Church of England
(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Anti Bullying Policy

2016



Objectives of this Policy

At Sleights, we want to make sure everyone feels welcome, happy and safe.

This policy makes sure that everyone connected with our school knows:

- What bullying is.
- How and why they should react if they suspect bullying.
- How we respond as a school

The desired outcomes

Bullying of any kind goes against everything we state in our vision and ethos and will not be tolerated.

What is bullying?

- Bullying is behaviour which deliberately makes another person feel uncomfortable, distressed or threatened.
- Bullying is repeated over time.
- Bullying makes those being bullied feel powerless to defend themselves.

Why are we against bullying?

- Bullying Hurts!
- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everybody has the right to feel happy and safe.
- No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Bullies need to learn different ways of behaving.

Different types of bullying

- Emotional (being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, threatening behaviour)
- Verbal (name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing)
- Physical (pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence)
- Extortion (demanding money/goods with threats)
- Cyber (Misuse of the internet, mobile phones or cameras to bully)
- Racist (racial taunts, graffiti, gestures)
- Sexual/sexist (unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments)
- Homophobic/Transgender (because of, or focussing on the issue of gender/sexuality)
- Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (focussing on differences and specific needs)

What are the signs and symptoms of bullying?

There are many signs or behaviours that indicate someone is being bullied. Generally speaking, parents and school staff may notice persistent signs of anxiety that are not the norm for the person concerned. They may appear as:

- Reluctance to attend or travel to school
- Change to sleep patterns
- Change to eating habits
- Mysterious 'stomach pains'
- Unusually withdrawn or unusually aggressive
- Unexplained missing or damaged clothes or property
- Hiding or unexplained cuts or bruises
- Afraid to use the internet, email or mobile phone

What causes Bullying?

People bully for different reasons.

The reasons could be:

- to feel powerful, in control
- jealousy
- to feel good about themselves
- because they want something (attention, possession or friends)
- to look good in front of other people, feel popular, be big/clever
- because of peer pressure
- for fun
- because they are being bullied themselves
- because they see and pick on an easy target (small, won't tell anyone, lonely or different in some way)

Prevention

The School Council undertake 'Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Award' that educates the children in the nine different forms of bullying, ways to help themselves and others.

- All the children helped to formulate our school rules which encourage everyone to 'CARE for others as well as themselves'.
- We are a 'telling school' – children are regularly reminded of the importance of not keeping quiet.
- All adults are aware of their role by being approachable and taking concerns seriously.
- Bullying is regularly discussed and acknowledged through display, Circle times and assemblies.
- We actively support annual Anti Bullying weeks.

Reporting Incidents of Bullying

Incidents of bullying should be reported to school in the first instance. The Headteacher will investigate the incident further, by interviewing the people involved. Headteachers have the legal power to make sure pupils behave outside of school premises (state schools only). This includes bullying that happens anywhere off the school premises, eg on public transport or in a town centre. School staff can also choose to report bullying to the police or local council.

If you are not happy with the way in which your complaint has been dealt with, the Governing Body has a specific 'Complaints sub-Committee' who will look at your complaint and discuss appropriate measures with the Headteacher. If after this discussion you are still not happy, you should contact the Local Education Authority in writing and ask for an investigation.

Support Agencies

- Anti-bullying Alliance - the alliance brings together over 60 organisations into one network with the aim of reducing bullying. Their website has a parent section with links to recommended organisations who can help with bullying issues. www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Kidscape (02077303300) www.kidscape.org.uk
- Childline – advice and stories from children who have survived bullying (08000 1111)
Bullying on line www.bullying.co.uk
- Parentline Plus – advice and links for parents (08088002222) www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- Parents Against Bullying (01928 576152)

Useful sources of information

- Stonewall - the gay equality organisation founded in 1989. Founding members include Sir Ian McKellen. www.stonewall.org.uk
- Cyberbullying.org - one of the first websites set up in this area, for young people, providing advice around preventing and taking action against cyberbullying. www.cyberbullying.org
- Chatdanger - a website that informs about the potential dangers online (including bullying), and advice on how to stay safe while chatting www.chatdanger.com