

# **Overthorpe Preparatory School.**

## **Anti-Bullying Policy.**

At Overthorpe we are agreed that bullying in any form is unacceptable. We believe that all children have a right to be treated with respect and dignity and have a responsibility to treat others in the same way. We will always try to achieve positive outcomes both for those who are bullied and those who engage in bullying behaviour.

### **Definitions of Bullying.**

- Bullying is any action or attitude by individuals or groups of people that has an intention to upset, threaten or physically hurt other people. Bullying often goes on for a long time but it can be a single incident.
- Bullying may be leaving people out of games or ignoring them in conversations. It may be telling lies about people or starting nasty rumours about their families.
- Bullying may be making someone unhappy by unpleasant name calling or by teasing people cruelly in a manner which is obviously upsetting to them. This includes racist, sexual and homophobic taunting.
- Bullying may be sending nasty notes to someone making a statement of dislike or antagonism. It may equally well be sending notes to someone, which contain unkind remarks about a third party.
- Bullying may be taking people's belongings and hiding or damaging them. Hiding other people's things may seem harmless but it is something which we always take seriously and will not regard as a joke because it can cause acute distress.
- Bullying may be physically hurting people by such actions as hitting, punching, pushing, kicking, biting or deliberately running into them.

### **How to stamp out bullying. Rules for children.**

- Never deliberately leave someone out of a game.
- Tell a teacher if you see someone being bullied.
- Tell the bully that you do not like what he or she is doing.
- Encourage children who say they do not want to play. They may be nervous.
- Never laugh at what bullies are doing. It encourages them.
- Remember your teachers will listen to you. They are there to help.

### **Points for staff to observe. They may indicate a child who is being bullied.**

- Children who seem generally unhappy.
- Children who are not willing to talk to adults about problems they are having with other children.
- Children not achieving as highly as usual.
- Children who are left alone during breaks.
- Children who are not able to find their books, pencil cases etc.
- A pupil's work which has been torn or written on by others.

These are not the only indications of bullying. Staff must be vigilant at all times.

### **What staff must do to help to prevent bullying in school.**

- Staff must tackle bullying and give this a high priority when it occurs. All staff must work together in this matter.

- Staff must take immediate action if bullying is suspected and they must follow up until they are sure the problem is solved.
- Anti-bullying must be promoted in lessons and staff must make sure that they, themselves, are never guilty of bullying children.

Staff must endeavour to show children who bully that there are better ways of behaving and they must encourage all children to realise that they should never treat other people in ways in which they, themselves, would not like to be treated. By the content of their lessons, and by personal example, staff should encourage kindness and empathy.

### **What will be done when bullying occurs.**

All incidents of bullying are different so decisions will be made at the time. Usually, in first instance, a child will be warned and given one or two debits. The child's parent will be informed at the end of school or by telephone if someone else is collecting. If the bullying persists the bullying child will be given useful tasks to do at break instead of being allowed to play. The child's parents will be called in and their help solicited.

Bullying is one of the very few acts which may lead to a child's temporary exclusion from the school. If bullying persists after a temporary exclusion a permanent exclusion may follow. Every effort to deter the child from bullying will be taken before these steps are taken.

*In preparing this policy we have taken regard of DfES guidance 0064/2000: 'Bullying: don't suffer in silence.'*

Last reviewed January 2009.