



IVY CHIMNEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

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Anti-Bullying Policy

A definition of bullying

At Ivy Chimneys we believe that bullying is an act of repeated behaviour, which can be physical, psychological, social or verbal. It can be conducted by an individual or a group against an individual. It is different from random aggressive behaviour. It occurs over a period of time. Bullying can include intimidation, teasing, name-calling and isolation. It is an attack on the person for being perceived to be 'different' in some way whether it is because of race, sex, academic achievement, etc. Bullying can also be carried out through the use of text and email messages.

How do we know if it is serious?

When a person is bullied he or she experiences pain, hurt and upset. It is the responsibility of the adults involved (including teachers, MDA's, LSA's, parents/carers) to assess and recognise the extent of the torment felt by the child.

Some indications or warning signs could be that pupils may:

- Be scared to walk to and from school
- Refuse to go to school
- Concentrate less in class
- Be reluctant to go out to play
- Cling to adults in the playground
- Begin hurting others for no apparent reason
- Have unexplained injuries
- Become withdrawn and distressed
- Refuse to say what the problem is
- Have possessions go missing regularly
- Have nightmares
- Be upset when they get home
- Give unlikely excuses to explain any of the above
- Tell their parents, other adults or peers

Values Statement

The School Mission Statement states:

“At Ivy Chimneys Primary School we are committed to providing a well balanced and varied curriculum which will enable all children to develop a responsible and independent attitude towards learning; reach their potential in terms of academic achievement, spiritual awareness and aesthetic appreciation; **be tolerant and understanding with respect for the rights, views and property of others**”

Pupils in Years 5 & 6 (2014/5) agreed to the following basic principles which were discussed in School Council, reported back to class councils and were displayed. They form our Anti-Bullying Charter:-

- Everyone has the right to feel safe and happy
- Everyone has the right to be different
- Everyone has the right to have confidence in themselves

Assessing the extent of the problem

The work done in Sheffield by Peter Smith and Sonia Sharp (1991-93) has established that:

- Bullying is a significant problem for 23% of primary pupils
- Most bullying happens between pupils in the same year/class group
- 50% of bullying is never reported

A Parent/Carer questionnaire, carried out in October 2009 found that:

- 94% of parents/carers felt that pupils behaved well
- 89% of parents/carers felt that their child was not bullied or harassed
- 100% of parents felt that their child was treated fairly by staff
- 96% of parents/carers felt that they were comfortable in approaching the school with questions, a problem or a complaint

(80 questionnaires returned from 170 questionnaires delivered to parents/carers of pupils from Years 1 – 6)

School Action – Prevention and Reaction

1. Prevention

The school will raise awareness of friendship issues and an anti-bullying message through the taught PSHE and Citizenship curriculum. There will also be opportunities through

- Activity and charity weeks, for example One World Week
- Class/group discussions related to friendship
- Class council discussions
- Drama activities from outside groups
- Social skills groups
- Play leader training

2. Reaction

The two aims of intervention will be:

- 1) To make the targeted pupil feel safe
- 2) To encourage better behaviour from the perpetrator, colluders and observers

At Ivy Chimneys we will use the Support Group Approach, which is recommended by Essex LA. It is a seven-step model. The seven steps are summarised as:

1. Talk with the targeted pupil (victim)
2. Convene a meeting with the people involved

3. Explain the problem
4. Share responsibility
5. Ask the group members for their ideas
6. Leave it up to them
7. Meet them again with perpetrator included in group

It is expected that teachers, MDA's and LSA's will carry out these meetings. However if an MDA or LSA is dealing with the situation then the class teacher will always be notified of any incidents within the class.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in light of pupil and parent/carer questionnaires on a regular basis.