

SUMMERHOUSE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICE



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

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 Summerhouse. 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 report it.

TO IGNORE BULLYING IS TO CONDONE IT!

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences including economic differences and perceived academic/intellectual differences.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, 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 focussing 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

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All of the Management Committee, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

- All of the Management Committee and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- At Summerhouse we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from Summerhouse
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to Summerhouse (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

Procedures

Allegations and incidents of bullying at Summerhouse will be taken seriously by all staff and dealt with impartially and promptly. All of those involved will have the opportunity to be heard. Staff will support all pupils involved whilst the allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved. The following robust, but flexible, procedures are always followed:

1. Incidents of reported bullying need to be reported to a senior leader.
2. Depending on the incident, an appropriate member of staff will speak to all pupils involved about the incident separately or if appropriate as a group. This will be reported to the relevant senior leader.
3. The problem will be identified and possible solutions suggested, which may include:
 - mediation
 - restorative justice
 - circle time
 - drama activities which will move pupils on from having them justify their behaviour
 - supporting the bully/bullies to genuinely apologise
 - supporting the bully/bullies, through their trusted adult, to understand and change their behaviour
 - sanctions, including exclusion
 - If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
4. In the unlikely event the bullying continues, or in more serious cases of bullying, families will be invited into the school for a meeting to discuss the problem and in very rare cases, mediation/restorative justice meetings with both families and pupils present may be used to resolve the issues.

Outcomes

After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

- Whole school initiatives and proactive teaching strategies are used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing the opportunities for bullying to occur. These include:
- Clear, agreed expectations which are highly visible in the schools and referred to in lessons and assemblies as part of our approach to promoting positive behaviour
- Our values curriculum which focuses on relationships, respect, dealing with conflict, trust, British values and which permeates our PSHCE programme and our assemblies:

- Taking part in the national 'anti-bullying week' each year
- Awareness through regular, relevant assemblies & Circle time with younger pupils
- Drama/role play activities
- An effective pupil induction process including buddies for pupils new to the school and those who are experiencing difficulties settling in
- The following of the school's behaviour policy, which includes focusing on praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour (including peer relationships, being respectful of each other etc.)
- Ongoing staff training to recognise and deal with bullying, including on specific areas such as gender, religious diversity, disability discrimination and racism.
- Encouraging the whole-school community to model appropriate behaviour towards one another
- Displaying Childline/NSPCC posters around the school

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.