

RIVINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy



*We invite you to come on an exciting learning journey.
Discover, create, invent, explore. Join the adventure*

Reviewed June 2016

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 our school. 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 tell the staff or other pupils through the Bully Busting Scheme.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. It is meant to hurt and is deliberate and repeated over a period of time.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, use of violence, or physical intimidation
- Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures

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 that happen during school time, on the way to and from school or that take place at home using the internet/mobile phones etc., (cyberbullying policy) but involve pupils at school.

Objectives of this Policy

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

- As a school 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 school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (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 (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

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

Bully Busters

The School has an effective **Bully Buster Scheme** run by the children, for the children. Two Y6 children are appointed to act as mediators for each class in school. They attempt on a weekly basis to resolve minor bullying problems, referring these to the class teacher should they become ongoing or beyond their capabilities to resolve. The Bully Busters adhere to a strict set of rules which are displayed in each class.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff or Bully Busters and these will be noted in either the Bullybuster log or Teacher log.
2. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
3. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
4. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
5. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff and reported to the Head Teacher.
6. The Head Teacher's Report to Governors updates them each term on any serious cases of bullying which have been entered in the school log.
7. In the case of a parent reporting bullying a record would be kept in class or Head Teacher log and the above procedure followed.
8. In the case of reported bullying outside of school or on the way to school parents would be informed. In repeated cases, parents would be required to collect their child and supervise them on the way home.
9. Internet bullying or using any type of technology (e.g. mobile phones) will not be tolerated. A separate policy deals with this in more detail.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. If possible the pupils will be reconciled.
3. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
4. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.

Hate Related Bullying

The school will not tolerate any bullying including racist bullying, homophobic bullying, and bullying related to gender, disability and religion. Again incidents will be investigated fully, older children will be asked to give statements if appropriate. Children will then be educated as to why this kind of behaviour is not acceptable. If behaviour persists or was serious/deliberate, parents will be informed and action taken. Complaints will be registered in class logs and reported to the Head Teacher who will then report termly in the Governing Body Report.

Cyber Bullying

School also take other forms of bullying very seriously including those using technology such as the internet, mobile phones etc. School has a separate e-safety policy which deals with these in depth.

Prevention

The school uses a variety of methods for helping to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school/class rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories, poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- using anti-bullying websites
- using role play
- using discussion periods, such as circle time, to consider bullying and its effects on both perpetrator and victim
- inviting dance/theatre companies in
- taking part in special antibullying week using the SEAL/SEAD programmes.
- educating the children in e-safety (see separate policy)

Monitoring

The Policy will be monitored on an annual basis.