

Anti-Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

The school council met to discuss ideas from all classes about the content of our school anti-bullying policy. This is what was agreed by the council:

We do not want any bullying at Mount Pleasant Junior School.

We believe bullying is-

- **Unfair**
- **Disgraceful and not amusing**
- **Terrifying**

Our policy is as follows:

- It is the responsibility of all children to protect other children from bullying by talking to the children others and reporting it to an adult.
- Teachers will contact the parents of children continually bullying other children.
- Bullying will be punished with lunchtime detention.
- The behaviour of children bullying others will be monitored by the staff.
- We will try to improve the behaviour of children who bully others by treating them well.
- All reports of bullying will be investigated.
- We will have a set of rules to prevent bullying.
- We use posters to discourage bullying.
- Once every term all children will complete a bullying questionnaire to find out about the level of bullying in the school.
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What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person physically or mentally. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional threatening being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, 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 and internet chat room misuse
Mobile threats by text messaging and calls
Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and 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.

We recognise that schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

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 what they should do if bullying arises.
- 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
- does not want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go 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 (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 and 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

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

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

Prevention

We will use KIDSCAPE methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters