

Burnside Academy

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY



October 2017

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.

Statutory duty of schools

Headteachers have a legal duty under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils.

How does our school promote Anti-Bullying?

- We are developing an Anti-Bullying team within school consisting of both staff and pupils.
- We promote anti-bullying through dedicated assemblies and anti-bullying week.
- We tackle the issue of bullying during PSHCE lessons.
- All pupils are aware of who is involved in our Anti-Bullying Team and have opportunities to share their concerns with these members.
- Posters are displayed around school giving the clear message that bullying is unacceptable.

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.

In our school, 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
- 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
(see additional guidance)

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 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
- doesn't want to go to school
- changes their usual routine
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- 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
- 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

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should 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. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will 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 the following 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
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Working with the school Anti-bullying team.

If you are unhappy with the way the school has dealt with a bullying issue or concerns then please refer to our complaints policy.

This content of this policy has been written and approved by our School Council and Anti Bullying Team with support from Kidscape.

Mrs V Houghton
Staff member of School Council. (Teacher)

Pupil Anti Bullying Team Ambassadors

Macy Kirkbride – Anti Bullying Ambassador
Abbie Steel - Anti Bullying Ambassador

Italia Naisbitt – Head Girl
Aston Rivers – Head Boy
Grace Fenwick – Deputy Head Girl
Shayne Charlton – Deputy Head Boy

L. Kelly
Head Teacher

October 2017

Cyberbullying

Education law

Bullying is never acceptable. Our school community has a duty to protect its members and provide a safe, healthy environment. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 (EIA 2006) outlines some legal powers which relate more directly to cyberbullying. Head teachers have the power 'to such an extent as is reasonable' to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off site. The EIA also provides a defence for school staff in confiscating items such as mobile phones from pupils.

What is Cyberbullying?

Technology is a wonderful tool and offers fantastic opportunities for children. However, the technology can be misused. Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) particularly mobile phones and the Internet, deliberately to upset someone else. As mobile phone and Internet use become increasingly common, so has the misuse of this technology to bully.

How is the school addressing the issue of cyberbullying?

The objectives, procedures, outcomes and prevention as set out in the school Anti-Bullying policy remain the same for cyber-bullying, However in addition:

- Clear guidance will be visible in the ICT suite offering key safety advice to pupils.
- Staff will conduct searches of Internet pupil use if there is any indication of school ICT equipment being misused.
- All incidents of cyberbullying will be recorded.
- Parents will be informed if an incident of cyberbullying is reported.
- Through direct teaching, staff will promote the positive use of technology.

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