

WEST WALKER PRIMARY SCHOOL Anti-Bullying Policy

DEFINITION

We could define bullying as any behaviour by one pupil or group, which deliberately causes hurt to another pupil, or group of pupils. Such behaviour is likely to be systematic and continuous and can take the form of physical aggression, verbal abuse or social engineering resulting in the isolation of a child or group of children.

We recognise that bullying is a complex issue and thus some incidents may fall outside the above definition.

THE SCHOOL ATTITUDE

We believe that any form of bullying is unacceptable and will therefore regard any incidents with the utmost seriousness.

PARENTS ATTITUDES

The school expects that parents will regard bullying with abhorrence and will co-operate with the school in order to ensure that school policies are adhered to.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The school will ensure that a clear system of reporting incidents exists, that action will be taken when appropriate and that monitoring of the effectiveness of the action will be carried out. It is also the responsibility of the school to ensure that the subject is given a high profile, that communications are clear and unequivocal and that action when it is warranted is seen to be taken. It is the responsibility of the pupil and any others who are aware of it, to report an incident of bullying.

REPORTING AN INCIDENT

Children must know that they can report an incident to any responsible adult, teacher, non-teacher or Head Teacher. It may be that in some cases a child may prefer to report an incident to a member of the School Council or another pupil who would in turn report it to an appropriate adult.

On receiving a report the adult will complete an Incident Report form and this, together with any additional verbal information will be transmitted to the Head Teacher (copies of the report will be kept on file for parents etc.) This should be done immediately - delays simply exacerbate the problem.

ACTION

After the incident has been reported to the Head Teacher, the victim and perpetrator (and any witness) will be seen separately by the Head Teacher. It may be that the problem can be solved at this stage.

If it can't or if there is a re-occurrence involving the same children then the parents of both children will be asked to discuss the matter with the Head Teacher - again separately. It would be the schools intention at this stage to enlist the support of parents in developing

strategies for the victim to help cope in such situations and in the case of the perpetrator, parental support to ensure that such behaviour does not happen again.

SANCTIONS

The school will take action in order to ensure that bullying behaviour ceases and also in order that children see that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

The following are some of the actions, which may be taken:

- a) Removal of privileges e.g. break times etc.
- b) Short term suspension
- c) Long term suspension

COUNSELLING

The school believes that counselling is an important part of any anti-bullying strategy and applies equally to bully and victim. The school will endeavour to help victims develop strategies to cope in potential bullying situations. Similarly, the child responsible for bullying needs counselling also. In both cases this may be done with the child or the child and his/her parents.

Reviewed January 2019

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APPENDIX 1

ADVICE & GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

1. Watch for signs of distress in your child e.g. unwillingness to come to school, a pattern of illness, belongings which have gone missing, asking for extra pocket money, damaged clothing, unexplained bruising. These may be the signs of bullying.
2. Take an **active** interest in your child's social life. Talk about friends, what they did at school, what they did at playtime and on the way home.
3. If you think your child is being bullied inform the school immediately - don't leave it to see if things get better.
4. Ask for an appointment with the Head Teacher.
5. Keep a written record (with names and dates) if the problems continue. This will help school especially if you note time, date, places, and names.
6. Do not encourage your child to hit back. This usually makes the situation worse.
7. Encourage your child to make friends. Children with friends are not so easy to isolate and bully.
8. If you know your child is being bullied reassure them that there is nothing wrong with them and that they are not the only victims.
9. Insist that they tell an adult.
10. If you wish to talk to the Head Teacher do not be deterred by your child's reluctance for you to come to school because "it will only make things worse" - it won't!

Reviewed January 2019