

Purston Infant School

Policy regarding anti-bullying in school

Rationale

At Purston Infant School we do not tolerate or condone bullying as it is entirely opposed to our school's values and ethos. Children have to learn to play and get along with each other and in doing so will sometimes fall out, say unkind things or be involved in rough play. This should not be confused with bullying. According to the dictionary, a bully is a cruel tormentor of the weak. Bullying is to oppress cruelly/to threaten and 'is an action of physical, social, emotional or verbal aggression which arouses fear, causes distress or intimidates the victim, whatever the intention of the bully'.

Aims and Objectives

At Purston Infant school our aim is to provide a nurturing and caring environment, one in which all members feel safe and secure. We believe that all children have a right to learn free from intimidation and fear and take a preventative approach towards the subject of bullying in the first instance. We broach bullying through discussion and stories so that pupils understand the consequences and severity of such actions. Any incidents of bullying are taken seriously and we believe that everyone is responsible for the prevention of bullying.

The Responsibility of the school

Staff will:

- Foster in our pupils self esteem, self respect and respect for others, in accordance with our ethos and other related policies. (SMSC, PSHE and Behaviour)
- Be alert to signs of distress and other indications of bullying
- Be sensitive to the needs to the victim, ensure bullied pupils will be listened to and investigate the incident thoroughly.
- Help bullies to change their behaviour.
- Inform parents if there are any incidents of bullying in accordance with procedures, equally listen to any concerns parents raise regarding bullying incidents.
- Record incidents of bullying in a consistent way that allows for monitoring of behaviour by dating and noting the incident.
- Discuss with and involve children in agreed class and school rules and behaviour. (Whole School Agreement)
- Apply sanctions fairly and in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
- Request help from SEN Support Services, Educational Psychologist, EWO, Primary Behaviour Support where necessary.
- Encourage and praise when problems have been solved in a satisfactory way.

The Responsibility of pupils

We expect our pupils to:

- Refrain from becoming involved in any form of bullying in accordance with our whole school agreement, rules and behaviour policy.
- Speak out, don't suffer in silence and tell someone if they think someone else is being bullied.

The Responsibility of Parents

We ask the parents to support their children and the school:

- Watch for signs of distress or unusual behaviour which might be evidence of bullying.
- Advise their children to report any cases of bullying and explain the implications of it continuing unchecked, for themselves and others.
- Advise their child not to retaliate to any form of bullying, given that it will make the situation worse and only get them into trouble. Instead, the child should be advised to tell the teacher, responsible adult or ask their parents to do so.
- Be sympathetic and supportive towards their children, reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken
- Co-operate with school, if their child is accused of bullying, try to establish the truth and point out the implications of bullying.
- Keep up to date with their child's friendships they may well learn of disagreements or difficulties.
- Be aware that the ways in which they bring up their children is likely to have a significant influence on their behaviour in school.
- Ensure that they set a good and consistent example to their children by their own behaviour.
- Be supportive in setting the behavioural standards expected in this school, refraining from using bad language or inappropriate behaviour on the school site.
- If parents suspect that their child is being bullied they should notify the school so that the matter can be investigated and dealt with quickly.

Governors

Governors will:

- Take full advantage of the training opportunities offered by the LEA relating to bullying in schools.
- Be proactive in their presence around school and act as a positive role model and advocate for the school.
- Support the school in tackling any bad language or abusive terms, including name calling and insults, used by pupils and sometimes parents, in and around the classroom if it became necessary. To this end the Governors wish to make it known that foul or abusive language, whether by parents to staff, parents to parents, parents to pupils, or by pupils to staff or to each other, is not acceptable on our school site.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the SLT and agreed by staff and governors annually.

Re-written January 14 by L Tesh

Signed.....Headteacher Date:

Signed.....Governing Body Date: