

LOBETHAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Rationale

At Lobethal Primary School we make it a priority to ensure that children are able to spend their school day in a happy, safe and secure environment. Staff will take a firm line on bullying.

To combat bullying each member of the Teaching Staff, Support Staff, School Council and Parents must be aware of our school policy - this is the responsibility of the Principal.

We use our School Induction pack and website to inform parents that bullying will not be condoned.

Aims

We aim to prevent bullying by:

- publicising the fact that bullying will not be condoned at our school
- making anti-bullying an integral part of school life including the curriculum
- dealing with bullying in a structured manner
- celebrating good behaviour
- promoting and fostering self-esteem
- educating our children to be tolerant
- making sure that all new pupils in a class feel secure

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when a person is subjected to repeated aggressive acts over a period of time by another person or persons that result from a conscious desire to hurt, threaten, frighten or humiliate. Bullying can involve physical or verbal attacks, name calling, malicious gossip, damaging or stealing the property of a victim or coercing the victim into acts which they do not wish to do and can include harassment on grounds of race, gender and disability. This can also include incidents of bullying using technology (cyberbullying). Bullying can be fearfully damaging on victims, perpetrators, the rest of the school and its community.

Expected Outcomes of our Policy

- Pupils feel happy and safe during the school day and on their journeys to and from school.
- Pupils feel secure in the knowledge that their concerns will be listened to, believed and acted on.
- Parents are confident in the school's management of bullying and other behaviour concerns.
- New pupils are introduced to school class rules, the Principal and School Counsellor as soon as possible after arrival and made to feel welcome.
- Teachers on yard duty are ensuring that there are no 'unsafe' areas in our school and ensuring all areas where children play are well supervised at break, lunch-time and at home time.
- Opportunities are provided for drama and role play about bullying and 'feelings' as part of the planned activities in the Child Protection curriculum, English, SOSE and drama.

Guidance on dealing with bullying

With Primary School children, we must help them to make certain distinctions between behaviours:

Is the person/s bothering them -

- being a bully or just being bossy?
- bullying or just engaging in very boisterous behaviour?
- bullying or just teasing?
- bullying using technology?

As children develop socially, incidents may occur which are brought to the attention of the Principal, School Counsellor or Class teacher, and which are dealt with as soon as possible in an appropriate manner.

We use the following lines of action - LISTEN: BELIEVE: ACT

- Believe the child who says he is being bullied and investigate the incident.
- Watch for early signs of distress in pupils.
- Be watchful and observe social relationships in the class and on the playground
- Publicise the fact that all allegations of bullying will be investigated.
- Use all pupils as a positive resource in countering bullying.
- Offer the victim support by putting the school's procedure into operation.
- Listen carefully and record all incidents: the bullied pupil account and the bully's account.
- The incident must be reported to the Principal or School Counsellor who will interview the children involved individually where bullying is established. These discussions should be recorded.
- The parents / carers of all pupils involved may need to be informed of the bullying.
- Make clear to the bully and his/her parents that the behaviour is unacceptable.
- All written notes to be placed in the pupils' files.
- A close watch must be kept on both the bully and the victim and the victim given ample opportunity to report any further incidents in private.
- A behaviour modification plan will be agreed with the bully.

Monitoring incidents of Bullying

Acts of bullying will be recorded and placed on the student's file as appropriate.

This policy reflects agreed practice.