

PSJP08

Penistone St John's Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy



Approved by:

Governors

Date: Autumn 2024

Last reviewed on:

Autumn 2024

Next review due by:

Autumn 2025

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RATIONALE

Penistone St John's Primary School is committed to a policy of inclusion, to equality and justice. We believe that bullying behaviour is totally unacceptable. We believe that where bullying is challenged effectively pupils will feel safe and happy. We will demonstrate a school that cares.

Our anti bullying policy should be read in conjunction with our school's behaviour policy.

AIMS

Within Penistone St John's Primary school we want:

- all children to feel safe and to learn, play and enjoy the company of others
- all children to be treated fairly, with respect and dignity
- to listen carefully to what children have to say and to treat children's accounts with due seriousness
- an inclusive community where children with Special, Educational Needs and Disabilities have a personalized provision where their voice is heard and they feel as safe as every other child and adult in school

WHAT IS BULLYING?

In order to carry out these aims we must be clear on what bullying is and the forms it may take.

Bullying can be described as unwanted behaviour from a person or group that is offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting. There is often abuse and a misuse of power that undermines, humiliates or causes physical or emotional harm to someone. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. It is repeated.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone (e.g. hiding books, stealing possessions, threatening gestures.)
- Being sent nasty messages by text or online
- Posting horrible or mean comments or photos of you on Social Media
- Commenting on your posts or pictures and saying nasty things
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, slapping, punching or any use of violence.
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Verbal name calling, sarcasm, constant criticism, spreading rumours or teasing.

Discrimination (the motivation behind the bullying)

- Racist, racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issues of sexuality (Gender based bullying)

Motivation

Research shows that name calling is the most common direct form. This may be because of individual characteristics, but pupils can be called nasty names because of their ethnic origin, nationality or colour, or some form of disability. (See Penistone St John's Primary's Anti Racist Policy).

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 have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

DISABILITY

It has been reported that children with a disability present as a particularly vulnerable group with regards to Bullying so as a School, Staff are trained to be aware of this and ensure that children with additional vulnerabilities and disabilities are monitored vigilantly and supported to discuss their feelings and emotions. Interventions, such as Thrive, are used to help children with Emotional Literacy.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY.

- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- 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 can be assured that they will be taken seriously when bullying is reported.

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 on the school/public bus
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school (School phobic)
- Begins truanting
- 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 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

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered as a possibility and should be investigated.

PROCEDURES.

1. Report bullying incidents to any member of school staff.
2. In cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff on CPOMs
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and may be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police may 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 apologize. 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 various methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Writing a set of school rules/classroom rules
- Signing a behaviour contract
- Undertaking a behaviour diary for a period of time.
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to the class or assembly
- Making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role-plays)
- Having discussions/circle time about bullying and why it matters
- Having assemblies about bullying
- Listening carefully to pupils and providing opportunities to raise awareness through RE, Circle time, RSHE
- Teaching children to say "no" when appropriate or to get help.
- Including all staff in training.

DEALING WITH REPORTED INCIDENTS OF BULLYING.

At Penistone St John's Primary School we adhere to 5 key points

1. Never ignore suspected bullying
2. Don't make premature assumptions
3. Listen carefully to all accounts- several pupils saying the same thing does not necessarily mean they are telling the truth.
4. Adopt a problem solving approach.
5. Follow up repeatedly, checking bullying has not been resumed.

INVOLVING PARENTS.

Parental support is one of the keys to success of our Anti Bullying Policy. We aim to consult and communicate on a regular basis.

What should Parents do if they feel their child is being bullied?

Any parent contacting the school with a particular concern will always be taken seriously. The first point of contact for the parent is the child's class teacher. As a class teacher we will follow the following few steps:

- Recognize that the parent may be angry or upset
- Keep an open mind – bullying can be difficult to detect, so a lack of staff awareness does not mean that no bullying has occurred
- Remain calm and understanding
- Make it clear that the school does care and that appropriate action will be taken
- Explain the agreed school procedures and policy and ensure these are followed.
- If a parent doesn't feel that the situation has been dealt with adequately by the class teacher then the next stage of the complaints procedure is to contact the Headteacher.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE POLICY.

The policy will be regularly evaluated by the Headteacher, SENDCo and the class teachers; through the following methods:-

- Review of incidents recorded on CPOMs
- Talking with pupils e.g. in circle time
- Playground observations
- Small group interviews – or individual interviews

HELP ORGANISATIONS.

Children's Legal Centre

KIDSCAPE (Parents Helpline, Mon-Fri 10-4)

Parentline Plus

Youth Access

Childline

02077130089

020 7730 3300

0808 8002222

02967126

0800 1111

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk>