

Heathmere Primary School Anti-bullying Policy

Heathmere



Respect

Resilience

High Expectations

Written by: Emma Lewis

Role: Headteacher

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Our vision is a school where all members of the school community work together so that children learn and achieve their full potential in a calm, safe and caring environment.

Our mission is to:

- Establish a purposeful learning environment based on our school values of respect, resilience and high expectations, and by developing Heathmere as a Rights Respecting School.
- Teach an interesting, creative and stimulating curriculum which engages and enthuses children and prepares them for a life of learning.
- Be at the heart of the local community by involving parents, carers and the wider community in the school.
- Continually improve by learning from each other, reflecting on what we do and being open to change and to new ideas.
- Enable children to become active members of society who have high expectations for themselves and who are able to collaborate with other children and adults.

Heathmere Primary School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. People have the right to be safe, and the responsibility to keep each other safe. 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 a trusted adult, this could be:

- Teacher
- Teaching Assistant
- Learning Mentor
- Parent
- Family member
- Place2Be (P2B)

Children may also want to talk to a friend for peer-support.

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This policy links to other school policies, including the Behaviour Policy, Online Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and the Complaints Policy.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the repeated use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying is Several Times On Purpose (STOP), and results in pain and distress to the target.

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
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- 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

Children, parents, carers, families, and staff can be bullied for a number of reasons, including:

- Religion or culture – including travellers
- Gender – including sexist, transphobic bullying;
- Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND);
- Appearance or health conditions;
- Home circumstances – including young carers, families of prisoners.

Adults may also be the target of bullying by others. Staff should speak to their line manager in the first instance and may find further information in the Wandsworth Whistle-blowing Policy and the Wandsworth Bullying and Harassment Policy.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a target 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

- Reduce the likelihood of bullying through rigorous preventative strategies and interventions.
- Whole school approach to the anti-bullying agenda
- 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.

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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
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- 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
- starts to regularly complain of feeling ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- 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
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- starts 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. Other ways of reporting incidences include through Place2Talk appointment slips and:
 - Childline - <http://www.childline.org.uk>
 - CEOP - <http://www.ceop.police.uk/>
3. There is a Going for Gold Behaviour Policy (see Going for Gold Behaviour Policy and tracking/recording systems on the school's website); Bullying is Red behaviour and will be dealt with very seriously; pupils will be issued with a Red for any case of bullying on-line or off-line.
4. All incidences are logged using the incident reporting form
5. Incidents are monitored to make sure the preventative strategies and interventions are fully effective and the objectives are met
6. In all cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
7. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
8. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
9. An attempt will be made to help the perpetrator (perpetrators) change their behaviour

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Outcomes

- 1) Any cases of bullying will be dealt with in line with the school's behaviour policy
- 2) In serious cases, exclusion may result
- 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 a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Place 2 Talk
- Personal Social Health Emotional curriculum
- Assemblies
- Circle time
- Going for Gold
- Learning Mentor sessions
- High level of staffing on the playground

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HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education	http://www.ace-ed.org.uk/
Anti-bullying Alliance	http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/
Anti-bullying net	http://www.antibullying.net/knowledge/knowledgenew.htm
Barnardo's	http://www.barnardos.org.uk/
Beat bullying	http://www.beatbullying.org/dox/help/how-to-recognise-bullying.html
Child Exploitation On-line Protection	http://www.ceop.police.uk/
Childnet	http://www.childnet-int.org/
Digizen	http://old.digizen.org/
Direct.gov	http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/Internetsafety/index.htm
Kidscape	http://www.kidscape.org.uk/parents/index.asp
MENCAP	http://www.mencap.org.uk/
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	http://www.nspcc.org.uk/
Stonewall	http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_school/
Talk safe (Terrence Higgins Trust)	http://www.talksafe.org.uk/10to12/
Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board	http://ww3.wandsworth.gov.uk/Home/Safeguarding/Parents/Bullying.htm