



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY **2016-17**

Ofsted Nov 2007

‘The school provides excellent care and support for all pupils and particularly for vulnerable pupils. The very effective work of the home-school liaison officer and her support for whole families helps significantly in resolving a range of difficulties that some pupils experience.’

‘The learning mentor is most effective in supporting those with emotional difficulties.’

‘Pupils have confidence in the adults. As one pupil says: “If I’m not comfortable with something, adults sort it out.”

Statement of Intent

At Hallsville we are committed to the Every Child Matters outcomes hence we provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils/adults so they can learn/work in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. 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 an adult in the school.

What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

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 focusing on the issue of sexual orientation, gender identity.
- ◆ Biphobic because of or focusing on the issue of sexual orientation, gender identity.
- ◆ Transphobic because of or focusing on the issue of sexual orientation, gender identity.
- ◆ Gender through preference or exclusion focusing on male or female
- ◆ Disability through exclusion/ name calling
- ◆ Verbal name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- ◆ Cyber use of technology to do any of the above

Who is vulnerable?

Looked After Children
Children/adults with SEN
Children/adults from ethnic minorities
Mid phase admissions
Children/adults with disabilities
Traveling children/adults

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.

Our school has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this policy

- ◆ All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is.
- ◆ All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- ◆ Parents and carers will have access to the Anti-bullying Policy on the Hallsville website
- ◆ 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 would be supported when bullying is reported.
- ◆ Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Teachers and Educational Assistants should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- ◆ Is frightened of walking to or from school
- ◆ Begs to be driven to school rather than walk
- ◆ Changes their usual routine
- ◆ Is unwilling to go to school
- ◆ 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 hungry (lunch/money has been stolen)
- ◆ Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- ◆ Is bullying other children or siblings
- ◆ Gives unbelievable / strange excuses for any of the above

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

Procedures

1. Children/ parents should report bullying incidents to staff.(Middays and TA's to report incidents to teachers)
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by teachers and filed.
3. Care plans will be written to ensure all adults are aware of incidents and outcomes of the bullying incident/s.
4. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
5. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
6. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
7. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
8. School Council to promote Anti-bullying within school and across the Borough.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Verbally, or through writing an apology.
2. In serious cases parental involvement or even internal /external exclusion will be considered.
3. If possible , the pupils will be reconciled.(make friends)
4. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place. Hallsville follows a behaviour policy where there is a hierarchical order of adults that monitor behaviour and bullying.
5. All incidents will be logged and kept in children's file and on a specific form found in the Anti-Bullying file.
6. If necessary outside agencies will be utilized to support children/adults within the school.
7. The Home-school Liaison Officer (Ann Jordan) and the Learning Mentor (Madeleine Lee) will liaise with families and action outside agencies as instructed by the Head Teacher.

Prevention:

Some methods to inform children and help to prevent bullying may include:

- ◆ Writing a set of class/school rules
- ◆ Signing a behaviour contract, use in the classroom.
- ◆ Using SEALS as assembly focus
- ◆ The school has an annual Anti-Bullying Week
- ◆ Writing stories or poems , drawing pictures about bullying
- ◆ Reading stories about bullying or having children read to a class or assembly
- ◆ Drama and role-plays
- ◆ Having discussions about bullying
- ◆ Philosophy for Children – allows children to express opinions and discuss points of view about bullying
- ◆ We are a TELLING school-children are taught the importance of speaking out about bullying concerns.
- ◆ Children having a voice through School Council/ Youth Parliament



Hallsville Primary Bullying Incident Form

Date:

Reported by:

Reported to:

Nature of incident: Was it verbal, written, physical, stealing, cyber or other (please specify)?

Brief description of incident:

Action taken with perpetrator(s) / victim(s) / witness(es)/ other people/ agencies:

Head Teacher's comments:

Signature of Head Teacher