

Ickniel Walk First School

Anti-Bullying Policy – Parent and Carer Information

Although incidents of bullying are not common at Ickniel Walk First School, it is important that parents know how the school would deal with a report of bullying.

What are our principles?

Our school is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our children, so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure environment. We aim to provide high quality Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) and to promote positive behaviour through an agreed, whole school approach. This, we believe, will reduce the likelihood of bullying behaviour developing at our school. However, we recognise the importance of having a whole school policy clarifying what constitutes bullying, and setting out how we would deal with any incidents.

Bullying behaviour is unacceptable in any form by any member of the school community and will not be tolerated. We take incidents of bullying very seriously both inside and outside of school and will investigate appropriately.

What do we mean by bullying?

We define bullying as deliberately hurtful behaviour of a physical or psychological nature (or both) which is repeated, often over a period of time. The attacks are not provoked by the victim. It is often difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Single incidents of verbal or physical attack, and behaviour which is hurtful, will also be taken seriously and dealt with according to the principles outlined in our behaviour policy (this is available from the school office and on our website).

All school staff are trained to spot the signs of bullying and are vigilant in their observation of children's behaviour at school.

There are five main types of bullying:

- Name-calling which specifically refers to some attribute (or perceived attribute) of the victim or their family eg their race, sex, appearance or gender orientation
- Intimidation which is a direct or threatened physical attack
- Demeaning which is a verbal activity leading to the loss of status of the victim
- Extortion which is bullying in order to gain some possession/s from the victim
- Ignoring or active exclusion from a social group

What can the child do if they are being bullied?

The most important message for children when anyone is being unkind is to tell an adult or someone who can help them.

What should you do if you think your child is being bullied, or is bullying others?

You should make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher to discuss the matter and if the problem persists speak to the Headteacher.

What will we do if an incident is reported?

- We will speak to all members of staff to alert them to the possibility of a child being bullied. They will observe carefully and intervene, record any incidents and feedback to the class teacher or senior lunchtime supervisor as appropriate.
- For the victim we will reward them for telling, offer them protection, sympathy and advice on how to avoid future incidents, mediation (where appropriate) and personal support strategies.

For example;

- children will be asked to report to a specific member of staff about any incident for a short period of time
- children will be given options of where to go in school if feeling insecure
- For the bully or bullies (once identified) the school's behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy strategies will be applied.

For all stages above parents will be kept informed and all reported incidents will be recorded by the class teacher and the Headteacher.

How can parents or carers help?

Parents should listen carefully to what their children are saying and look for changes in behaviour or demeanour that might indicate a problem, and then contact the class teacher if the problem seems to be rooted in school.

Signs and symptoms

These are likely to vary enormously, but the following may be evident:

- Not wanting to go to school
- Becoming withdrawn
- Decrease in attainment and/or progress
- Changes in eating and/or sleeping patterns

We recognise the important part parents and carers play in supporting their children and promoting change. We welcome the active involvement of parents and carers (of both victim and bully) in bringing the problem of bullying under control, by liaising with the school and its staff.

Parents and carers who try to deal with school issues independently may unwittingly reinforce bullying behaviour.

What can the school do to prevent Bullying?

Our school has a zero-tolerance attitude to bullying. All staff and children have a responsibility for dealing with this problem. Children will have their awareness of the issue raised at a number of levels (as in assemblies and the Personal and Social Health Curriculum) and be informed of our expectations about the unacceptability of bullying and what to do if they experience or are aware of bullying by others.

The school is legally responsible for incidents of bullying which occur on school premises. We are however concerned about pupils conduct and welfare outside school and we will address issues that come to light from other sources, where appropriate.

What can you do if you feel the school has not taken your complaints seriously?

Please talk again to the head teacher and if necessary ask for the school's complaints procedures.

Where to go for further help and advice

The school's full Anti-bullying Policy document (of which this leaflet is a summary) is available from the school.

You could contact the parenting support worker at the Extended Schools Centre in Roysia Middle School.

Here are some useful websites and phone numbers that may be able to help you and your child:

Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk
Parent helpline: 020 7823 5430

Childline: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

Family Lives (previously
Known as Parent Line): 0808 800 2222

Children, Schools & Families: 01438 737500
(Hertfordshire County Council) www.hertsdirect.org/bullying

Advisory Centre for Education: 0808 800 5793 (Mon-Fri 2-5pm)

Bullying Online: www.bullying.co.uk

Anti-bullying Alliance www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk