Durweston CE VA Primary School
Including Handy Paws pre-school

Anti-Bullying Policy

Adopted by FGB: July 2017

Revised: Autumn 2019

Feed the mind, nurture the Spirit, free the imagination!

Governors are mindful of their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and have screened this document to ensure compliance with the law.

Date	Summary of amendment
Autumn 2015	Review of policy
July 2017	Review completed to check for compliance with new CP policy 2016; in line with KCSIE 2016
July 2017	Information added surrounding peer on peer abuse with or without IT.
Aut 2019	Policy revised by NB
October 2019	Review completed to check for compliance with the updated KCSIE 2019 statutory guidance.

Statement of Intent

Our school values are **Courage, Compassion** and **Joy**. Therefore:

Courage	Compassion	Joy
Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is **expected** to tell an adult in school or a member of the Governing Body	**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 committed to providing a caring and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere

Defining bullying

STOP – Several Times, On Purpose

Bullying is persistent, deliberate action by an individual or group that is intended to intimidate, belittle, isolate or otherwise hurt physically or emotionally the intended victim.

Bullying can be:
- **Emotional** - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, making threatening gestures), spreading false rumours
- **Physical** - Any form of physical violence, threat of violence, intimidating behaviour, theft or the intentional damage of possessions. This includes pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Racist** - racial taunts, graffiti about ethnicity, unkind gestures
- **Sexual** - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- **Disablist** - targeted at an impairment or special educational need or disability
- **Homophobic** - focussing on the issue of sexuality
- **Verbal** - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing. Verbal bullying can also include ignoring
- **Cyberbullying** – 'the use of modern communication technologies to embarrass, humiliate, threaten or intimidate an individual in the attempt to gain power and control over them.' This includes all areas of internet such as email & internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging & calls and misuse of technology i.e. camera & video facilities

What is NOT bullying?

Bullying is behaviour that is intended to hurt, is repeated and where there is an imbalance of power. This means that one-off incidents are not usually bullying behaviour though they may still be frightening and harmful.

Knowledge of Indicators are referenced in 'strategies to prevent bullying' and frequently in KCSIE for abuse etc. but I can find no other source of information for staff for indicators of bullying, only abuse, so here they are just in case…

Indicators of Bullying for the Victim

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of possible signs of bullying and should investigate if a child:

- Feels ill in the morning, is unwilling to go to school (school phobic) or begins to truant, has poor attendance
- Frightened of walking to or from school, doesn't want to go on the school / public bus or begs to be driven to school
- Changes in their usual routine
- Signs of depression; becomes withdrawn, feelings of shame, low self-esteem or starts withdrawing from their peers
- Poor school performance
- Psychosomatic symptoms (stomach-aches, headaches, muscle aches, other physical complaints with no known medical cause),
- Displays symptoms of anxiety (bedwetting, headaches, starts stammering sleep disturbances)
- Stops eating or has changes in eating habits
- Cries themselves to sleep at night
- Comes home with possessions damaged or missing, asks for money or starts stealing money, or has money continually "lost"
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable, is bullying other children or siblings
- Is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

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

Strategies to prevent bullying

- Consistent reinforcement of school values and class charters
- Maintain a raised awareness of bullying issues through taking part in Anti-Bullying Week
- Ensure all staff are alert to possible indications of bullying
- Maintain adequate levels of supervision in classrooms and at play
- Regularly review the playground environment with School Council
- Ensure that pupils know that 'telling' is the way to make sure bullying stops
- Maintain a listening environment including the worry box
- Teach E-Safety regularly in line with our E-Safety Policy
- Education via the school's curriculum and collective worship
- Early Help intervention for children identified as needing additional support and potentially becoming a victim/bully

Tackling bullying

All allegations and incidents of bullying will be taken seriously. We will help and support any children who have been bullied and will work with the bully to help them understand and change their behaviour. We will involve all parents concerned with due sensitivity to the issues involved. All incidents of bullying will be recorded and reported to the Governors annually.

Use of IT

Staff should be aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.

If cyberbullying does take place, staff should keep records of the abuse, text, e-mails, website or instant message and should not delete texts or e-mails. Teachers are advised to take screen prints of messages or web pages and be careful to record the time, date and place of the site.

Sexting involves images or videos which are indecent or of a sexual nature, generated by children under the age of 18 or of children under the age of 18, shared via a mobile phone, handheld device or website. Incidents of sexting will be investigated and managed in line with the pupil acceptable user agreement and E-safety policy. We work in line with guidance from UKCCIS: 'Sexting in schools and colleges: responding to incidents and safeguarding young people'.

Child Protection

The Children Act 1989 says a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is "reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm". Where this is the case, this will be reported to the DSL who will refer to Social Care if necessary.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually. This policy should be read in conjunction with all other Safeguarding policies.

NB Aut 2019

'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong.
And do everything with love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14