

# FERNHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## Anti-Bullying Policy



This Policy has been agreed with reference to Article 19 from the UN charter for the Rights of Children:

**Article 19 (Protection from all forms of violence):** Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally.

<b>Updated</b>	December 2018
<b>Responsible Committee</b>	Curriculum & Standards
<b>Ratified by GB</b>	May 2019
<b>Next Review</b>	May 2020

We are a Rights Respecting School

Article 28 (right to education) Every child has the right to an education.

Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

## **ANTI – BULLYING POLICY**

### **Statement of Intent**

As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated. The school will seek ways to counter the effects of bullying that may occur within the school or in the local community. The ethos of the school fosters high expectations of outstanding behaviour and we will challenge any behaviour that falls below this. We take a proactive stance against bullying behaviour and the whole school periodically undertakes activities to help children with this issue such as anti-bullying week, assemblies and PSHCE sessions in class.

### **What is bullying?**

Bullying can be described as being a deliberate act, repeated over a period of time, to cause distress to another individual or group. Bullying can occur through several types of antisocial behaviour.

- **Physical**

A child can be physically punched, kicked, hit, spat at etc.

- **Verbal**

This can take the form of name-calling. It may be directed towards gender, ethnic origin, physical /social disability, personality etc.

- **Exclusion**

A child can be bullied simply by being excluded from discussions/activities etc

- **Damage to Property or Theft**

Pupils may have their property damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used to make pupils hand over property to them.

- **Cyber/Online bullying**

This can include the use of social medial sites

### **What can Children do if they are being bullied?**

When incidents occur, class teachers will discuss bullying and reinforce the following strategies.

- Don't suffer in silence. Always tell someone.
- Remember that you do not deserve to be bullied and that it is wrong.
- Try not to show the perpetrator that you are upset.
- Stay with a group of friends/people. You are less likely to experience bullying behaviour if you are not alone.
- Be assertive – say “No”, walk confidently away. Go straight to a teacher or other adult.
- Don't be tempted to fight back.
- Tell an adult you trust straight away. You will get immediate support.

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- Teachers will take you seriously and will deal with the perpetrator with the aim of addressing the situation so that it no longer happens.

### **What do you do if you know someone is being bullied?**

- Don't be a bystander - take action! Watching and doing nothing allows the bullying behaviour to continue. It makes the target feel unhappier and on their own.
- If you feel you cannot get involved, tell an adult immediately. Teachers will deal with the perpetrator without getting you involved.
- Do not feel forced to be friends with the perpetrator.
- If you are already friends with someone using bullying behaviour, make it clear that you do not approve of what they are doing in any way.

### **Role of parents**

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy. We ask parents to:

- Look out for unusual behaviour in your children, for example, they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their usual standard.
- Always take an active part in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent time with.
- If you feel your child may be a target of bullying behaviour, inform school immediately. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action taken.

If a child has bullied your child:

- Please do not approach that child.
- It is important that you advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse.
- Tell your child that it is not their fault that they are being bullied.
- Reinforce the school's policy on bullying and make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help.
- Please discuss the issues with them, inform the school that you wish to report an instance of bullying and get your child to talk to an adult in school. The matter will be assessed and an appropriate course of action will be determined.
- You will be informed of what has been discussed and decided.
- Remember it is important that the child feels empowered to deal with the issue and parents do not take this control away.

### **Strategies for dealing with Bullying**

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach, as perpetrators of bullying are often targets too and that is why they act as they do.

If bullying is suspected, we will:

- Talk to the suspected target and any witnesses.
- Identify the person using bullying behaviour and talk about what has happened, to discover

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why they became involved. Make it clear that bullying is not tolerated at Fernhurst School.

- Follow the sanction procedures outlined in the Behaviour Policy will be followed. (In extreme circumstances the child may be escorted from the school premises for a fixed term exclusion).
- Record Incidents of bullying on the school/county incident sheet and the report incidents to governors.
- Investigate further if the suspected person denies using bullying behaviour until evidence is obtained to establish fact.
- Ensure appropriate facts are feedback to pupils and parents.
- Continue monitoring the situation to ensure no repetition.

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