

Beecroft Primary School – Anti-Bullying Policy 2022

This policy is written in line with the DFE guidance: The Equality Act 2010 and schools' Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities. Reference: DFE-00296-2013

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Statement of Intent

At Beecroft Primary School we are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our school. We take all incidents of bullying seriously. Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect and pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving.

When bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively in accordance with our anti-bullying policy.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to try and prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. The implementation of this policy will create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in. All members of the school have a responsibility to recognise bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy.

This will happen in the following ways:

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents/guardians will have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying and will consistently and swiftly follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents/guardians will know what the school policy is on bullying, who to go to and what they can do if bullying occurs.
- Pupils and parents/guardians will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Whole school initiatives, teaching and discussion will be used throughout the school to reduce the opportunities for bullying to occur. Pupils will know what different forms bullying can take.
- A positive, caring ethos exists within the school environment where everyone can work, play and express themselves, free from the fear of being bullied.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying can be:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g., hiding books, threatening gestures), ridicule or humiliation
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, throwing stones, biting, spitting, punching or any other forms of violence, taking or hiding someone's things
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, making fun of culture and religion, written graffiti on walls or books, distributing racist literature or the wearing of badges or insignia belonging to extreme political organisations known to be racially motivated
- Homophobic - making comments about gender or sexuality that deliberately make the victim uncomfortable, calling names or teasing, ignoring or excluding, making comments online
- Any unfavourable or negative comments, gestures or actions made to someone relating to their disability or special educational needs.
- Cyberbullying- using the internet, email, online games or any digital technology platforms to threaten, tease, upset or humiliate someone else.

Bullying is not:

It is important to understand that bullying is not the *odd occasion* of falling out with friends. It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise, it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

Where does bullying happen?

It can happen anywhere – in the classroom, in the corridor, in the toilets, in the dining hall, in the playground. Bullying may also happen on the way to and from school.

Signs and Symptoms

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

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the bus/in the taxi
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine/route to school
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering

- feels ill in the morning
- begins to underperform in schoolwork
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions go "missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay the bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- starts swearing or using aggressive language for no apparent reason
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be taken seriously and investigated as soon as possible.

What can you do if you are being bullied?

Wherever you are in school, you have the right to feel safe. Nobody has the right to make you feel unhappy. If someone is bullying you, it is important to remember that it is not your fault and there are people who can help you. Tell your parents, siblings, a friend, your class teacher or use the school TELL poster and speak to Miss Brown or Miss Turner.

What can you do if you see someone else being bullied? (The role of the bystander)

Ignoring bullying is cowardly and unfair to the victim. Staying silent means the bully has won and gives them more power. There are ways you can help without putting yourself in danger.

Bullying of children with Special Educational Needs

Beecroft Primary School is an inclusive school. We provide a secure, accepting, safe and stimulating environment where everyone is valued for who they are.

Procedures for reporting and responding to bullying incidents

(Also see policy for dealing with racist incidents)

All staff will respond calmly and consistently to all allegations and incidents of bullying at Beecroft Primary School. They will be taken seriously by all staff and dealt with impartially and promptly. All those involved will have the opportunity to be heard. Staff will protect and support all children involved whilst allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved.

The following step-by-step procedure will be used for reporting and responding to bullying allegations or incidents:

1. Report all bullying allegations and incidents to staff.
2. Staff will make sure the victim(s) is safe and feels safe.
3. Appropriate advice will be given to help the victim(s).
4. Staff will listen and speak to all children involved about the incident separately.
5. The problem will be identified, and possible solutions suggested.
6. Staff will attempt to adopt a problem-solving approach which will move children on from them having to justify their behaviour.
7. Appropriate action will be taken quickly to end the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying.
8. Staff will reinforce to the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable.
9. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. (See behaviour policy)
10. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
11. An attempt will be made, and support given, to help the bully (bullies) understand and change his/her/their behaviour.
12. In all cases parents will be informed and will be invited to come into school for a meeting to discuss the problem.
14. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
15. Bullying incidents are recorded.
16. Bullying incidents will be discussed regularly at staff meetings.

Strategies for the prevention and reduction of bullying

Whole school initiatives and proactive teaching strategies will be used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing the opportunities for bullying to occur. These can include:

- Awareness raising through regular anti-bullying assemblies
- PSHE scheme of work from Reception to Year 6 used to support this policy
- Circle time and MindMate work on bullying issues
- Children writing stories and poems and drawing pictures about bullying
- Children being read stories about bullying
- Using drama activities and role-plays to help children be more assertive and teach them strategies to help them deal with bullying situations
- Participate in anti-bullying week activities
- Playground friendship stop
- Using praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour
- Encouraging the whole school community to model appropriate behaviour towards one another
- Organising regular anti-bullying training for all staff

Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

To ensure this policy is effective, it will be regularly monitored and evaluated in August 2023.

Websites

Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) 0207 843 1901 www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Childline 0800 1111(helpline for children) www.childline.org.uk

Kidscape 020 7730 3300 www.kidscape.org.uk

NSPCC 0207 825 2500 www.nspcc.org.uk