



## Anti-Bullying Policy

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Approved By: Headteacher

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## Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated at Sholing Infant School. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to disclose and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

## What Is Bullying?

Bullying is not one incident of physical or verbal aggression. Bullying is the frequent, targeted use of verbal, and or physical aggression, with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain (physical and/or mental) and distress to the victim. Bullying can take many forms:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, damaging others' personal possessions, threatening gestures
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, exclusion
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber - all areas of internet, such as email, Facebook & internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities
- Disability - related to a physical, mental or learning disability

## Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts, and can cause long term psychological damage. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to be shown different ways of behaving.

As a school we believe we have a responsibility to protect our children and respond promptly and effectively to incidences of bullying.

## Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- Our school ethos and values are based upon friendship, cooperation, truth, understanding and respect for each other which are pro-active measures to ensure bullying does not occur
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and adhere to it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what to do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying very seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will 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. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if a child shows repeated incidences of: • being frightened of walking to or from school/wanting to be driven to school

- changes in behaviour
- being unwilling to go to school
- anxiety, or lacking in confidence
- unusual stammering
- attempting to, or runs away
- nightmares/bed wetting
- feeling ill in the morning
- deterioration in school work
- coming home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- aggression, disruptive or unreasonable behaviour towards others
- bullying other children or siblings
- refusing to eat

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but if one or more of these behaviours is exhibited repeatedly then bullying should be considered a possibility, and should be investigated.

## Procedures Immediately following a report of bullying

1. Relevant members of staff at school will be informed of incidents of bullying (this includes any adult that the child may be in contact with)
2. The child/children who have been bullied will be spoken to and their responses recorded as will the child/children who are alleged to be engaging in bullying behaviours
3. Where bullying has taken place the parents of the child/children who are bullying will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem with the Senior Leadership team
4. Following this meeting agreed actions will be put in place to ensure the bullying ceases
5. Action of a long term nature will be taken to help support those who are bullying to change their behaviour, and to raise the self-esteem/confidence of those who are being bullied. This will be done through our school based trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) with additional outreach expertise sought if necessary.
6. All staff are required to be vigilant and are responsible for identifying and reporting any incidents or signs of bullying.

