

Moldgreen Community Primary School



Anti-bullying Policy

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Moldgreen Community Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

At Moldgreen Community Primary School 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 must not and will not be tolerated in our school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff. Any report of bullying will be immediately acted upon and we will follow our school anti-bullying procedures.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of the nature of bullying
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time, making it difficult for the person being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying can take the form of name-calling, violence, threatened violence, isolation, ridicule or indirect action such as spreading unpleasant stories about someone.

The hurtful behaviour may/or may not be deliberate, however the effect on the individual can be the same and the policy will apply in all circumstances.

There are many definitions of bullying, but most consider it to be:

- deliberately hurtful
- repeated over a period of time
- difficult for victims to defend themselves against their offenders

Bullying can take many forms, but the four main types are:

- physical – hitting, kicking, pushing, taking belongings
- verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks, threatening, racist remarks
- indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups
- cyber bullying – text / video messaging, chatrooms, instant messaging, email

Our school works hard to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and simply "falling out". Bullying is not when two people have an occasional fight or disagreement.

Actions to Tackle Bullying

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. We believe that prevention is better than cure, so at Moldgreen Primary we will be vigilant for signs of bullying and take reports of incidents seriously. We will use the curriculum and assemblies whenever possible to reinforce the ethos of the school and help pupils to develop strategies to combat bullying-type behaviour. Bullying as a topic will be covered in Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship lessons.

Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Everyone who works or helps in our school shares that responsibility.

Guidance for those working with children in the playground can be found in Appendix A.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff as soon as possible
2. A named member of staff will fully investigate the incident
3. Restorative practice is our preferred method of reconciliation. Staff will support both the victim and the bully. The bully will be given support to change their behavior and acknowledge their wrongdoing.
4. Incidents will be recorded by staff using an incident form / CPOM online system
5. Parents will be informed as soon as possible and may be asked to come in to school to discuss the problem

Outcomes

1. The bully will be asked to acknowledge their wrongdoing and apologize. Other consequences may take place.
2. If possible the pupils will be reconciled
3. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
4. In serious cases, exclusion will be considered
5. School Governors will be informed of incidents and their outcomes

Parents

Parents and families have an important part to play in helping schools deal with bullying. **Appendix B offers guidance to parents if a child is being bullied or is bullying.**

Monitoring and Reviewing the Policy

The Headteacher will report on an annual basis to the governing body the number and nature of bullying incidents. The policy will be reviewed annually.

Anti- Bullying Policy

Appendix A

Identifying and Helping Children at Risk

Sometimes adults can only observe pupil interaction – being unable to hear the content of the conversation. Apparent fighting or bullying can simply be rough-and-tumble play or ‘play-fighting’. Watch for:

- Smiling or laughing (but see below)
- ‘mock’ blows or kicks which do not connect – or do so only softly
- Taking turns at being on top or chasing the other

By contrast, pupils who are being attacked or physically bullied often:

- Frown or look unhappy or angry
- Try to move away from the aggressor
- Do not take turns, the aggressor remaining dominant throughout
- Attract other pupils’ attention

When primary children incorporate fantasy themes into play-fighting, they commonly adopt angry-looking facial expressions rather than a smile. This often leads school staff to assume they are acting aggressively. Asking participants in a friendly tone about what they are doing should clarify matters. Boys traditionally engage in this more than girls, but the difference may be decreasing and adults should avoid assuming that all fighting among girls is aggressive. In most cases play-fighting does not escalate into aggressive fighting. The majority of children appreciate the difference and are skilled at keeping their interactions playful.

Knowing who has persistently been bullied or is bullying can increase vigilance, but avoid labeling individuals with terms like ‘bully’ or ‘troublemaker’ since this could lead to incorrect interpretations of incidents.

Being alone a lot, being over-submissive or disrupting others’ games can place some children at a greater risk of being bullied. Without attaching blame, recognizing this may enable adults to help. While some children are happy to be alone, others would prefer to join in with activities but lack the skills or confidence. Adults should help such children get involved, whilst preventing their disruption. This should be done subtly to avoid resentment by pupils whose game may be ‘locked’ to outsiders.

Anti- Bullying Policy Appendix B - Information for Parents and Families

Every school is likely to have some problems with bullying at one time or another. Our school has an anti-bullying policy which we use to prevent and reduce bullying. Parents and families have an important part to play in helping schools deal with bullying.

What can you do to help?

- Discourage your child from using bullying behaviour at home or elsewhere. Show how to resolve difficult situations without using violence or aggression.
- Watch out for signs that your child is being bullied, or is bullying others. Parents and families are often the first to detect symptoms of bullying. Common symptoms include headaches, stomach aches, anxiety and irritability. It can be helpful to ask questions about progress and friends at school. Don't dismiss negative signs. Contact the school immediately if you are worried.

If your child has been bullied:

- Calmly talk to your child about it
- Make a note of what your child says – particularly who was said to be involved; how often the bullying has occurred; where it happened and what has happened
- Reassure your child that telling you about the bullying was the right thing to do
- Explain that any further incidents should be reported to a teacher immediately
- Make an appointment to see your child's class teacher
- Explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing

Talking to teachers about bullying:

- Try and stay calm – bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident
- Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened – give dates, places and names of other children involved
- Ask if there is anything you can do to help your child or the school
- Stay in touch with the school – let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue

If your child is bullying other children

Many children may be involved in bullying other pupils at some time or another. Often parents are not aware. Children sometimes bully other children because:

- They don't know it is wrong
- They are copying older brothers or sisters or other people in the family
- They haven't learnt other / better ways of mixing with their friends
- Their friends encourage them to bully
- They are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings

To stop your child bullying others:

- Talk to your child, explaining that bullying is unacceptable and makes others unhappy
- Discourage other members of your family from bullying behaviour or from using aggression or force to get what they want
- Show your child how to join in with other children without bullying

- Make an appointment to see your child's class teacher; explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing; discuss with the teacher how you and the school can stop bullying others
- Regularly check with your child how things are going at school
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement when they are co-operative or kind to others

Online Safety

Stories about cyber bullying, online safety, or more specifically online danger, are hard to avoid. The Internet and new communications technology, like all environments and media, can be used and abused. Thankfully the positive aspects far outweigh the negative - however you can take a few simple steps to help make your child's online experience as safe as possible and protect them from cyber bullying.

- Encourage them to tell you if they come across any sites that could cause offence or pose some kind of danger
- If you do catch them on a site that you think is unsuitable, don't assume that they made the choice to go there. It's not that hard for a determined webmaster to "disguise" a website to catch innocent visitors.
- If you feel unsure contact school – we will do everything we can to help