



**ASHLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

**REVIEWED OCTOBER 2015**

## **Ashley Junior School Anti-Bullying Policy**

Bullying is any sustained behaviour towards an individual or group that deliberately puts him or her under stress and makes them unhappy. It is intimidating and can take different forms. It can be:

### **Physical**

- punching, kicking, pinching

### **Verbal**

- name calling, abuse

### **Psychological**

- isolating someone, spreading rumours, staring, making gestures

It is recognised that cyber-bullying through internet chat rooms, texting etc. can be extremely damaging and can lead to verbal and psychological bullying. As part of our curriculum we provide training and guidance for children in appropriate internet use and how to deal with difficult situations.

### **Principles:**

- Bullying is wrong – everyone has the right to feel safe from intimidation
- Bullying prevents people doing their best
- There is no such thing as a typical bully. Bullies may be aggressive and uncooperative in lessons, but this is not necessarily the case. Both boys and girls can bully members of the opposite gender. Bullies do, however, tend to have low self esteem.
- If bullying is reported the victim has the right to expect something to be done about it

### **Guidelines:**

- Everyone within the school community – governors, staff, children and parents – have a responsibility to deal with bullying. We should be vigilant and sympathetic
- To counter bullying we create a culture in which we all consider the needs and feelings of others. We encourage all members of our community to let people know how they feel. Through specifically our circle-times, assemblies and PSHE learning, and through the ethos of the school, we equip children to articulate their feelings and we foster an open culture. We welcome the participation of parents in the school; we have an open door policy and appreciate they know their children best

When bullying is reported to staff we will:

- Be calm and approachable
- Listen carefully to what is said
- Take it seriously and reassure the victim that the problem will be sorted
- Think about how we would feel in the victim's position
- Empower the victim to take control of the situation – this is part of the solution – by rehearsing with the victim before confronting the bully
- Involve senior staff (see the Behaviour Policy for a flow chart of procedures)
- Inform both sets of parents
- Provide support for the bully

Under the Children Act 1989 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, the school staff should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child engaging in bullying.

As stated in our Behaviour Policy, staff have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside the school premises "to such an extent as is reasonable". This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

Our Behaviour Policy highlights that staff are able to search pupils and their belongings if the circumstances warrant it. If necessary, staff can delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones and challenge cyber-bullying.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

This policy will be monitored by **The School Leadership Team, The School Council and The Curriculum Committee**

**Approved FGB March 2008 Reviewed January 2011, January 2012, January 2013, January 2014**