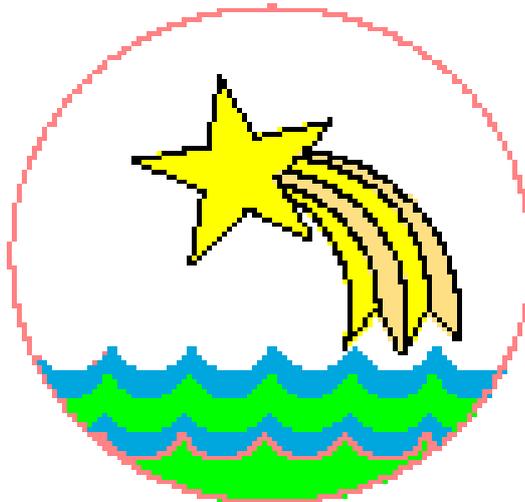


*Seascope Primary School*



# Anti-bullying Policy

It is the aim of every adult associated with Seascope Primary School, i.e. teachers, parents, governors, ancillary staff and supervisory assistants to work together in providing a safe, secure, protective and happy environment for children to work and play.

In order for this to happen, this policy needs to be familiar to everyone involved with school and followed to develop strategies for the elimination of bullying. It is each child's entitlement that we strive to promote freedom from bullying.

### **AIM**

The school aims to consistently monitor and consistently challenge bullying

### **OBJECTIVES**

As a result of implementing this bullying policy we will ensure that:

- Staff are always vigilant and responsive to bullying behaviour.
- Pupils feel that the school is always trying to reduce and prevent bullying behaviour, making school a safer secure place.
- Pupils know that there are systems in place to combat bullying.
- The school is a safe and caring environment.

### **How do we define bullying?**

Bullying comes in many forms and age is no criteria as it can start in the nursery classes. Bullying is usually either physical or verbal abuse, both of which are distressing to the victim.

Physically it can take many forms: kicking, scratching, nipping and generally inflicting pain on others.

Quite often it takes the form of role play in the school yard, the children emulate the actions of characters in television series or quite violent video games and in finding that they can intimidate other children by carrying out this behaviour, what started as a game becomes a much more serious matter of concern. As well as being deliberately hurtful bullying is often repeated.

Verbal abuse, however, is just as hurtful to the child and can lower the self-esteem as name calling, or drawing attention to physical, racial or sexual differences is very distressing and affects a child psychologically over a period of time and it is usual that those being bullied find it difficult to defend themselves.

Bullying can also take the form of taking another child's belongings. However, it may be an unresolved single frightening incident that casts a shadow over a child's life.

Bullying can also be indirect such as spreading nasty stories about someone or excluding them from social groups or games.

### **Is it really bullying?**

It should be established as to whether someone is actually bullying or being the sort of child who must lead and negotiate others to their way of thinking. This often extinguishes itself as the child grows older and learns to agree and accept others points of view. The bully however uses threat or force to achieve his/her aims.

A child is distinguished as a bully if during the course of play other children are systematically hurt or intimidated by his/her non-accidental actions.

### **The Bullies**

Many children learn from an early age that a show of hostile and forceful behaviour will be "open sesame" to getting their own way and will continue to use it to this end.

This strategy can be used on both adults and children, usually children who are smaller, weaker and more easily intimidated. Bullies enjoy inflicting fear, getting satisfaction from their feelings of physical superiority or choice of hurtful words and phrases.

In many cases parents are unaware of their child's bullying or as long as their child is not the one being bullied they accept the fact. The following reasons can account for children being and remaining bullies.

- They like the feeling of power
- They are spoilt and expect everyone to do as they say.
- They do it to get attention.
- They see it as a way of being popular.

- They feel insecure, inadequate, humiliated.
- They have been abused in some way
- They are scapegoats or are bullied at home
- They are under pressure to succeed at all costs
- They do not fit in with the other children.
- They feel no sense of accomplishment.
- They don't understand how wrong their behaviour is, or how it makes others feel.

Bullying can be temporarily caused by some traumatic event in their lives..

### **The Victims**

Generally these children may be physically weaker, younger, less self-assertive, anxious or lonely or these symptoms may be the direct results of bullying itself.

### **Recognising Likely Victims**

Staff will have no pre-conceived perceptions of likely victims. However they will be aware of the following. Victims may also be pupils who:

- Are new to the school or class
- Are different in appearance, speech or background from other pupils.
- Suffer from low self esteem.
- Demonstrate 'entertaining' reactions when bullied eg. tantrums, loss of control.
- Are more nervous or anxious

Vulnerability isn't always visible to adults. The victim may look like any other child.

Teachers will be alert to the behaviour of 'ordinary' pupils as well as supporting those pupils evidently different from their peers.

### **Possible signs of bullying**

- Children will make excuses of feeling ill and not want to attend school
- When brought to school by a parent the child will cry and want to go home, but will not necessarily give a reason.
- Start to wet the bed.
- Stop eating.
- Have bad dreams.
- Complain about another child's behaviour towards them.
- Become distressed or withdrawn.
- Make excuses to remain in school during breaks.
- Seek the close proximity of an adult in school yard.
- Regularly have clothes or property damaged.
- Have unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts.
- Have their possessions go "missing".
- Refuse to say what's wrong

### **Programme of Education**

#### **Aims:-**

To make children, staff, parents and governors aware of the problem of bullying, its causes and effects and how it can be overcome by working together in a whole school approach.

#### **Strategies:-**

1. Children will be made aware of what to do if they are bullied. This will be achieved by all members of staff emphasising the importance of telling an adult when they are hurt. To know that adults in school are concerned and will listen to the victims and deal with the situation is of

vital importance. Coping with bullying can be difficult, but victims should be encouraged to think of the bully as the problem not themselves.

### **Pupil Action in being Bullied**

1. Tell a friend or an adult you trust
  2. Talk to a teacher either alone or in the company of a friend.
  3. Tell parents.
  4. If bullying continues, talk to Head Teacher.
  5. If you can't do any of these things then place a note in the worry box for Mrs Ryle.
  6. Spend time with friends, bullies tend not to pick on groups of children.
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2. At regular intervals children are to be reminded of acceptable conduct in playground and the playground rules. There will always be several adults in the playground at playtime.
  3. Staff will work together as a whole to apply discipline with consistency and fairness. Good behaviour will always be rewarded
  4. In the event of persistent bullying parents will be notified in all cases of their child being either a bully or a victim and the action taken.
  5. All pupils to know that any reports of bullying will be treated in a confidential manner so that they have no fear of recriminations.
  6. All staff to be resolute in ensuring that school is patrolled, especially in places that could give children the opportunity to bully. Having as many outside playtime and dinnertime is especially important.
  7. All adults connected with school including parents to be aware of bullying penalty procedures and punishments

### **Curriculum Strategies**

In school as part of classroom activities and discussions the children are to be given the opportunity to air views and examine their own conscience. This should encourage bullies to see situations from the victim's point of view.

School assemblies provide an opportunity to draw attention to the unacceptability of bullying and its consequences.

The SEAL topic Say no to Bullying is undertaken each year.

A person to be nominated to deal with specific cases of bullying, but children to be aware that initially at the time all adults are available to help.

In Seascope Primary School the nominated person is the Head Teacher.

### **Advice and Guidance for School Staff**

Adults will be resolute in dealing with and recognising bullying in carrying out the whole school policy by being aware of the following tactics.

1. Be observant and note any signs of distress in children that could relate to bullying.

2. Listen to what the child has to say and act immediately by reporting to the designated teacher so that the child has confidence in knowing that something is being done.
3. Make sure that the bully is aware of wrong doing and the unacceptable nature of it and consequences arising from actions. Make sure that the bully apologises to his/her victim.
4. Make sure that all accessible areas of the school are patrolled at break times.
5. Make children aware that they can help themselves by not encouraging bullies into their group so that peers do not accept their bullying.
6. Encourage children to help each other and take responsibility for their safety by adopting a mutual caring attitude.
7. Children newly admitted into school are introduced into groups of caring children.
8. Reception children at the beginning of term will have separate playtimes and gradually integrated into the school playground.
9. Encourage and reinforce correct attitudes from children who are being bullied – do not “get your own back” as this makes the victim stoop to the bullies way of dealing with things and this is known to be wrong. Do not fight violence with violence.
10. All outbreaks of bullying to be reported to nominated person – the Head Teacher.
11. Check regularly that victims of past bullying are still safe and incidents have not re-occurred.

**REMEMBER ALL STAFF LISTEN, LOOK, ACT**

**Penalty Procedures for Bullying**

1. Ensure that there is proof that the child is bullying.
2. Child sent to nominated teacher immediately.
3. Sanctions are applied which may include withdrawal from favourite activities, loss of playtimes or exclusion from school.
4. Allowed out under close supervision of adult next break after sanctions have been applied.
5. If no further incidents child allowed to play freely with peers.
6. If bullying continuous sent to nominated teacher again.
7. Parents informed and invited into school to discuss home – school co-operation.
8. If there is no improvement in behaviour the child is referred to the SENCO for further help.
9. Educational psychologist informed and given details of problem so that his/her help can be given by contacting both home and school.
10. Pastoral Support manager will work with bully, onlookers and victim as well as parents to ensure a consistent message is being given to the child.

See also the Authority's policy statement on bullying.

Policy dated...September 2017 ..... Review.....September  
2019 .....