

Loughries Integrated Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Reviewed: June 2016

Loughries Integrated Primary School

Mission Statement

Loughries Integrated Primary School fosters a nurturing environment which encourages, supports, develops and challenges each child to reach their full potential. We endeavour to equip our pupils with the skills and qualities needed to work together for a shared future.

INTRODUCTION.

Loughries Integrated Primary School believes that each of our pupils has a right to be safe, valued and respected for his/her individual strengths and weaknesses without fear of being bullied. We believe that bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school.

RATIONALE.

Loughries Integrated Primary School recognises that for effective learning to take place pupils must be free from the fear of bullying. To this end we encourage the pupils to display the best possible behaviour in school and have established a clear Code of Conduct within our Positive Behaviour Policy. We do our best to prevent bullying behaviour and our Anti-bullying programme is grounded in personal development and the enhancement of protective factors. However incidents of bullying behaviour may be reported and it is important that a consistent and clear approach is taken when dealing with these reported incidents.

THE SCHOOL'S ANTI-BULLYING AIMS

- To create a caring community
- To take a whole school pro-active approach to the prevention of bullying
- To have a consistent approach for dealing with incidents of bullying
- To set a good example to encourage children to show respect for themselves and others
- To ensure that all members of the school community are aware of this Policy and their roles and responsibilities in contributing to its success

WHAT IS BULLYING?

The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) defines bullying as: - "The repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others." Bullying is behaviour that INTENTIONALLY and PERSISTENTLY causes distress to others.

TYPES OF BULLYING

These can include:-

PHYSICAL BULLYING

- Hitting, punching, pushing, nipping
- Taking or deliberately damaging people's things
- Kicking
- Spitting at another pupil
- Hair pulling

VERBAL BULLYING

- Name calling
- Making insulting or offensive remarks
- Making threats
- Ridiculing another person's appearance, way of speaking or personal mannerisms

EMOTIONAL OR INDIRECT BULLYING

- Spreading malicious rumours or nasty stories
- Leaving people out of social groups
- Sending nasty emails/texts (cyber bullying)
- Inappropriate use of social media
- Belittling another pupil's abilities or achievements

SIGNS OF A PERSON BEING BULLIED

A pattern of physical illness e.g. repeated tummy aches or headaches

- Anxiety about travelling to/from school or even wanting to stay at home.
- Changes in temperament and/or behaviour
- Signs of anxiety/stress e.g. not sleeping, off their food, inexplicable crying, bedwetting; nightmares
- Possessions and/or clothing damaged or missing
- Increased requests for and/or stealing money
- Unexplained bruising or cuts
- Deterioration in educational performances or loss of enthusiasm and interest in school
- Reluctance to talk about anything troubling them

RESPONSIBILITIES

PUPILS SHOULD...

- Report all incidents of bullying
- Act in a respectful and supportive manner to fellow pupils
- Adhere to and promote the school's Anti-Bullying Policy/Procedures

PARENTS SHOULD...

- Stress to their children the importance of good behaviour
- Report any concerns to the school
- Actively support the school's Anti-Bullying Policy
- Stress to children that retaliation is not helpful

STAFF WILL...

- Take all reports of bullying seriously
- Log all incidents
- In line with agreed procedures give feedback to all concerned
- Participate in regular training
- Celebrate good behaviour

GOVERNORS WILL...

- Participate in regular training
- Be informed in general terms of bullying incidents on an annual basis

DEALING WITH BULLYING

Staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline and educate the bully.

Prevention is at all times the better option and so we strive to raise awareness of bullying issues and to develop children's emotional and social skills so that they can cope in situations that could lead to bullying. It is often the case that potential bullying behaviour can be dealt with by the class teacher effectively. However once bullying behaviour has been identified parents of those involved will be informed.

Any concern raised regarding bullying will be noted and taken seriously by Staff. Once the concern has been raised Staff will observe the children involved in school for a maximum of five school days. Staff will report back to the Principal and agree a way forward.

RECORDING SUSPECTED INCIDENTS OF BULLYING WITHIN SCHOOL

Once an incident of bullying is suspected the Designated Teacher (Miss Miller) must be informed and an initial Concern Form is to be completed. All relevant details and dates will be noted. The parents of those involved will be informed. The Designated Teacher will agree to keep parents informed on the progress and outcome of the investigation within an agreed time limit.

WEEK ONE

Daily update on situation. Those involved will be observed, reassured and supported as necessary.

WEEK TWO

As above every other day.

WEEK THREE

As above once in the week.

Report back to relevant parties. If the problem is unresolved an Action Plan will be drawn up. If the problem appears to be resolved the report is returned to the Designated Teacher and filed.

WHEN SUSPECTED BULLYING IS SUBSTANTIATED...

- Parents of those involved will again be contacted by the Designated Teacher / Principal to agree a Plan of Action to support both bully and victim appropriately.
- Sanctions taken against a pupil who bullies will be dependent on the particulars of the situation. However his/her behaviour will be carefully monitored until Staff are satisfied that the problem has stopped.

Concern form.

Name of adult:.....

Name of the child:.....

Date:

Time:

Details (Vital facts/no opinions -Who? What? Where? When?)

