

South Failsworth Primary School

‘Inspiring and Creating Lifelong Learners’



Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: March 2022

Next review date: March 2024

Introduction

At South Failsworth Primary School, we are aware that pupils may be bullied in any school or setting, and recognise that preventing, raising awareness and consistently responding to any cases of bullying should be a priority to ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, it is essential that our school:

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

At South Failsworth Primary School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. 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 pupil 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's safeguarding team.

This policy is closely linked with our Behaviour Policy, our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and our school vision.

Aims

We are determined to promote and develop a school ethos where bullying behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, to ensure a safe and secure environment is sustained for all pupils.

We aim for all pupils to reach their potential academically, socially and personally through learning and playing in a safe and secure environment.

What is Bullying?

In our school a bully is someone who hurts someone more than once, by using behaviour which is meant to hurt, frighten or upset another person.

Emotional: Hurting people's feelings, leaving you out of games

Physical: Punching, kicking, spitting, hitting, pushing

Verbal: Calling you names, teasing you in a nasty manner

Racist/Homophobic: Calling you names because of the colour of your skin, your religion or beliefs or your gender or sexuality.

Cyber: saying unkind things by text, email or online.

Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that some groups of pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Looked After Children
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
- Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children from ethnic minorities
- Children entitled to Free School Meals
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual

Bullying Prevention

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential in keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies, as well as PSHE lessons, pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument. An annual 'Anti-bullying Week' is held to further raise awareness. E-safety is an important part of the curriculum and information for parents is included on the school's website. Pupils are taught to tell someone if they are concerned that someone is being bullied, this could include, teachers, friends, parents or someone at home, adults in school, lunch time staff, grandparents/auntie/uncle, school council members or Child Line. This information is shared with children via a child friendly version of our anti-bullying policy.

Code of Conduct

Our code of conduct, the 'three bees' – ***Be safe, be ready and be respectful*** is promoted in assemblies and displayed throughout the school. Through pupils following these rules, and staff reinforcing them, bullying should be significantly reduced.

Behaviour Policy

Our Behaviour Policy includes rewards and sanctions which are used consistently, alongside positive relationships, to prevent inappropriate behaviour, and promote positive behaviour.

Responding to Bullying

What will the school do?

Our school will always take bullying seriously. Adults will teach all children about bullying through PSHE and assemblies.

If children are being bullied, the adults in school will

- LISTEN and write down what the child say and ask how they are feeling.
- TALK to everybody involved.

- Talk to PARENTS about what has been happening.
- Ask MIDDAY SUPERVISORS to look after the child and keep a close eye on them.
- Decide what ACTION needs to be taken against those involved.
- LOOK OUT for any changes in behaviour in case it happens again.
- KEEP IN TOUCH and check that the child is feeling better and getting on better.

All cases of alleged bullying will be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Signs of Bullying

Staff should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including:

Physical: unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.

Emotional: losing interest in school, being withdrawn or secretive, unusual shows of temper, refusal to say why unhappy, high level of anxiety, mood swings, tearfulness for no reason, lack of confidence, headaches and stomach aches, signs of depression.

Behavioural: asking to be taken to school, coming home for lunch, taking longer to get home, asking for more money, using different routes to school, 'losing' more items than usual, sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.