



At John Scurr 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 of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

### **What Is Bullying?**

Bullying is hurting another person deliberately and **persistently**. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

### **What forms does bullying take?**

- Name calling – using bad language
- Physical
- Destroying other people's property
- Persistent mental cruelty
- Racist remarks
- Spreading rumours
- Crushing dreams
- Discrimination
- They do it secretly
- They do it because of personalities
- Personal remarks
- Saying unkind things about your family
- Hurting feelings
- Cyber bullying
- Teasing about sexuality

### **To clarify, we understand that bullying can be:**

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse, Mobile threats by text messaging and calls
- Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera and video facilities

### **Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?**

- Bullying hurts.
- Bullying ruins lives

- No one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- So that people will know what to do and bullying can be dealt with
- The school will be a better place
- To make our school a safer place
- To stop people being bullied and help the bullies become better people
- So that everyone is confident about school

### **Objectives of this Policy**

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- 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.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- That it will be understood that everyone needs to take responsibility for

### bullying. **Signs and Symptoms**

We think that children may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Doesn't want to come to school
- Is alone all the time
- Is not doing well in lessons
- Does not want to talk to anyone
- Is aggressive
- Shows unusual behaviour
- Appears depressed
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- Feels ill in the morning
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money
- Has dinner or other monies continually "lost"

- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what's wrong

### **What do we do at John Scurr to prevent bullying?**

- School Council discussions
- Class Rules / Rights and Responsibilities
- Achievement Assembly to make children feel confident
- Certificates, commendations and stickers
- Peer Mediation
- Reflections in PSHE lessons
- Circle Time
- Behaviour Sanctions
- Work and activities during Anti-Bullying Week

### **What happens at our school if bullying is discovered?**

It is important to tell someone so that the school can help

- Report bullying incidents to staff
- Peer Mediators may be used to deal with minor cases, but if they feel the situation is too serious for them, they must hand the case over to staff
- We will bring the children together and ask them how they are feeling and ask them to listen to each other and try to reach a way forward
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated by Class Teacher or Senior Teacher
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by class teachers in Behaviour Files. Head teacher or Senior Teacher should be informed
- In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come into a meeting to discuss the problem
- The school may arrange a meeting for both bullied child and child accused of bullying and their parents / carers with a mediator to try to resolve the situation
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted by the Headteacher • We want to see the bully receiving consequences so that everyone can understand that bullying is serious but want support for them too so that they can understand their feelings and change their behaviour.

### **Support may include:**

- Emotional Literacy individual or small group support or Peer Mentor support •
- Punishments will be tailored to the age of the child and circumstances. Details of

punishments may be confidential.

- The person doing the bullying may be asked to genuinely apologise when they understand how they have hurt the person being bullied
- In serious cases of bullying, suspension, or even exclusion, will be considered by the Head Teacher or SLT
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored by Class Teacher and SLT to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.