

STANLEY BURNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

Stanley Burnside Primary School does not tolerate bullying in any form and all members of the school community are committed to ensuring a safe, caring environment where children are free to learn and grow.

Rationale.

The mission statement and ethos underpin the life, work and relationships of the school. When incidents of bullying behaviour are brought to our attention, we take action to prevent, or reduce the possibility of it happening again. We support the child being bullied so they feel safe and happy at school, and challenge the child who has shown bullying behaviour with the aim of changing his/her attitude and behaviour. Persistent bullying behaviour is referred to the Behaviour Management Policy.

What is bullying?

There are many definitions of bullying, but it is generally agreed to be deliberately hurtful behaviour which is repeated over a period of time. It may be difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Although it takes many forms the four main types of bullying are:

- Physical - e.g. hitting, kicking, and taking / interfering with someone else's belongings.
- Verbal -e.g. name-calling, using 'put-downs' or belittling someone's efforts, insulting, racist or homophobic remarks.
- Indirect - e.g. spreading nasty stories or malicious rumours about someone, excluding someone from a group,
- Cyber –e.g sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones

If we are bullied:

- We may feel frightened, angry, powerless or embarrassed.
- Our work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer.
- We may feel worried and not know what to do.
- We should tell an adult who can help or tell someone we trust who will tell an adult who can help.

What do we do to prevent bullying at Stanley Burnside Primary School?
The school is proactive in taking preventative measures to reduce incidents of

bullying behaviour for example:

- Creating an open environment where incidents of bullying are reported to staff.
- Actively patrol communal areas during supervision duty at breaks and lunch-time by teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Looking for signs that may indicate bullying behaviour and report suspected incidents to the appropriate member of staff for example, the class teacher, the deputy Head teacher or the Head teacher who will follow designated procedures.
- Promoting the Buddy scheme and training volunteer Buddies as mediators.
- The ABC looking out for bullying incidents within their classes
- Planning 'Raising Awareness' sessions for each class with the Buddy Trainer.
- Working through a specially designed programme to promote personal and social skills in groups of 6, led by a trained Learning Support Assistant.
- Promoting good self-esteem through the reward system, use of verbal praise, circle time, Golden Time, the School Council, Collective Worship and the school ethos.
- Encouraging peer group support.
- Liaising with other agencies for example, the Anti-Bullying Service and the School Health team.
- Working towards gaining accreditation from the Anti-Bullying Service during 2010-2011.
- Adults providing a positive role model in word and action at all times.
- Staff attending appropriate training.
- Ensuring that children have easy access for help, one option being through a classroom 'Worry Box.'¹ Children also need to know who else can help them, for example, Mrs. Ladlow and Mrs. Pearson at Listening Matters

What can children do to stop bullying?

- To know what bullying is and be able to recognise it.
- Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation.
- Look after each other. If you are present when bullying occurs, tell someone who can help.

What can parents do to stop bullying?

- Watch for signs of distress in their child e.g. unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of headaches, missing equipment, damaged clothing or bruising.
- Talk to your child about bullying behaviour to ensure that his / her behaviour makes school a happy place for other children.

- Take an active interest in your child's social life and friends.
- Work in partnership with the school.
- Encourage your child to tell a member of staff about an incident. This empowers the child. Check with your child that they have told the appropriate member of staff.
- Inform the school if bullying is suspected.
- Keep a written record (who, what, when, where, why, how.)
- Tell your child that parental involvement may be appropriate for the situation.
- Be willing to visit the school if your child is involved in a bullying incident.
- Be willing to inform school of any cases of suspected bullying, even if your child is not involved.

What happens when a bullying incident is reported?

- We will listen sympathetically to the child making the complaint and take his/her concerns seriously.
- Ensure the immediate safety of the child.
- Investigate the incident, informing the child making the complaint of the action being taken and the timescale. If the parent has made the complaint we will keep them informed of progress.
- Whilst an incident is being investigated, the school will respect confidentiality and encourage parents to do the same.
- If an incident of bullying behaviour has occurred, we will take action to ensure it does not occur again, including discussion with the alleged bully, to ensure that he/she knows the reason for the complaint. Pupils may wish to use the Buddy Mediators. An apology by the alleged bully to the victim may be appropriate.
- Record incidents and actions being taken and bring them to the attention of the Head teacher.
- The Head teacher or the class teacher may inform the parents of the children involved, depending on the circumstances.
- Monitor the situation and evaluate actions taken.
- Each case will be treated individually and circumstances considered, in deciding appropriate action to be taken.
- In the event of an incident being unresolved between the school and the parent, the Anti-Bullying Service can be contacted by either party.

By working together, we can create a happier, safer school environment.

This policy has been drawn up following consultation with pupils, staff, parents, governors and school nurses, with *reference* to guidance from the Department for Education and Skills and the Local Education Authority.

If you feel there is no-one to talk to, sometimes it can help to talk on the phone to a Helpline:

Kidscape 01717303300
Bullying counsellor available Monday and Wednesdays 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Childline 08001111
Confidential free phone line for children in trouble or danger.

Children's Legal Centre 0171 359 6251
Advice on children's rights.

Samaritans Durham Branch 0191 3842727
Linkline 0345 909090

Victim Support Scheme Durham Branch 0191 3831515

NSPCC 01912260155

Child Protection Helpline 0800 800 500

Anti-Bullying Campaign 0171 378 1446 Office hours 10 am - 4 pm.

Durham Anti- Bullying Service 0191 384 0707