



Middlestone Moor Primary School

Anti Bullying Policy

September 2021

This Document has been informed by:

- Keeping children safe in Education
- The Equality Act 2010

Introduction

This policy outlines the school's views on bullying in line with the school's Respectful relationship policy.

Through the curriculum, pupils develop an understanding of the importance of tolerance and fairness. As a result, pupils do not put up with any bullying. If bullying occurs adults make sure that it stops. This shows how well leaders put the school's values of 'respect, learning, fun' into practice. Pupils are kind and supportive towards each other. (Ofsted January 2020)

Bullying is not a serious problem in our school however we acknowledge that from time to time a problem may arise which needs attention. Our policy outlines the methods we use to tackle any occurrence and also the ways in which we promote the social skills and empathy of our pupils to avoid problems ever starting.

INTRODUCTION - Why combat Bullying?

" Research suggests that bullying not only causes considerable suffering to individual pupils but also has a damaging effect upon school atmosphere... It is hard to see how a school can win the confidence of it's pupils if it fails to deal with behaviour which so seriously damages the quality of their lives."
(Discipline in Schools - report of the Elton Committee)

" Bullying is probably the most underrated problem in our schools today. It involves some 1.5 million children and young people in both state and independent sectors in the U.K. It causes fear and distress in the victim and distracts from school work."
(Tattum and Herbert 1990)

The two quotes above give sound reasons why bullying, an action that takes place in all schools to a greater or lesser degree, should, and will be combated at Middlestone Moor Primary School. We believe that bullying, whether between child and child, adult and child or adult and adult, is socially and morally unacceptable and can have a long-term damaging effect on both victim and bully. We recognise that bullying is a major concern for many children, teachers and parents and that it can and does affect both school attendance and school performance.

Bullying can include—

Type of bullying	Definition
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another's belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice—based and discriminatory, including: Racial Faith-based Gendered (sexist) Homophobic/biphobic Transphobic Disability-based	Taunts, gestures, graffiti, or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching.
Direct or indirect verbal	Name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps or gaming sites.

ENTITLEMENT

All children, without exception, at Middlestone Moor Primary School have the right to enjoy to the fullest possible extent the benefits of the educational provision that is offered. The right to enjoy being part of the life and work of the school is an essential part of achieving emotional health, maximizing individual achievement, feeling safe, making a positive contribution and eventually achieving economic well being.

In order to make full use of these benefits the pupils at this school should expect to be educated in an environment which: -

- ◆ is safe and caring,
- ◆ provides challenges but is non-threatening,
- ◆ encourages children to feel secure,
- ◆ values children's opinions and involves them, where appropriate, in the determining of school policy and rules,
- ◆ shows an awareness of children's individual needs and attempts to meet these.

This school believes that if a child claims to have been bullied or is suspected of being bullied s/he is entitled to expect: -

- ◆ to be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish the facts,
- ◆ that appropriate action will be taken to address the child's concerns and an assurance that their will be no recurrence,
- ◆ that the action to be taken will be made clear to the child and if necessary to the parents.

This school also believes that if a child is suspected of bullying s/he is entitled to expect: -

- ◆ to be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish the facts,
- ◆ to be told what action the school intends to take.

This school further believes that parents are entitled to expect that: -

- ◆ their child will be educated in an atmosphere which is safe and caring and is not characterised by violence and intimidation,
- ◆ the school will take all reasonable steps to prevent bullying occurring,
- ◆ any bullying incident which is reported will be investigated according to the school's guidelines,
- ◆ any bullying incident which is found to have taken place will be dealt with in line with the school's guidelines.

AIMS

To raise the awareness of children, staff, parents and governors of Middlestone Moor Primary School that bullying is viewed seriously at this school,

To take steps to combat bullying,

To deal with bullying if and when it occurs,

To develop and keep under review a whole-school policy, with guidelines, concerning bullying, in conjunction with other related school policies,

To make clear to pupils, parents and staff the steps which will be taken when bullying is reported.

PREVENTION

Obviously, it is better to stop bullying before it occurs so prevention is better than cure. This will also create a feeling of safety within the children.

In order to achieve this we can: -

- ◆ Use the curriculum to raise awareness. This could be carried out in: -
 - School assemblies
 - R.E. lessons
 - P.S.H.C.E. lessons
 - The "hidden Curriculum"
 - Parent brochure
 - Staff handbook

By discussing bullying we will be giving children, staff and parents opportunities to discuss the issue openly.

- ◆ Develop within the school an atmosphere of trust where children are able to tell and where adults will listen and believe.
- ◆ Make children aware that bullying is unacceptable, will not be tolerated and that every incident will be acted upon.
- ◆ Pinpoint the times in school where bullying is likely to occur and ensure a high priority of supervision. Times could be: -
 - before school begins on the school grounds
 - as school is closing
 - breaktimes
 - between activities
- ◆ Pinpoint the places in school where bullying is likely to occur and ensure adequate supervision here. Places could be
 - in the playground (corners, recesses etc)
 - in porch and toilet areas
 - in unsupervised work areas
 - when lining up
- ◆ Be aware of the most likely children to be victims but also be aware that anyone is a potential victim. The more vulnerable could be someone: -
 - new to the class or school
 - different in background, appearance or speech from other children
 - suffering from low self-esteem
 - more anxious or nervous than most
 - who give a "reaction" when bullied - i.e. loss of control, tantrums, crying
 - with special educational needs.

The School Council is involved in making suggestions for action taken in school regarding preventing or dealing with bullying.

EXPECTATIONS

Pupils who have been bullied are supported by;

- The opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice
- Reassurance
- Support to restore self esteem and confidence

Pupils who are bullying will be helped by

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why they became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil

Staff are expected to adhere to the following procedures;

- If bullying is suspected or reported to an adult, the incident will be dealt with immediately or at an agreed time.
- A clear account of the incident will be recorded on CPOMS
- Class teachers and parents will be informed
- Sanctions will be used as appropriate in consultation with all parties.

The Role of the Governors

The Governing Body supports the head teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the staff to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

Parents are expected to;

- Help their children behave properly
- Work co-operatively with teacher and child in assisting the child's learning and in building positive attitudes towards learning and school
- Instill in their children a respect for others, and others property, and to help develop a positive feeling about themselves.
- Talk in confidence to the child's teacher or the Head Teacher

SEN/Disability

Middlestone Moor Primary School is fully committed to complying with the 2014 SEN code of Practice and the Equality Act (2010) Including:

- *Promoting equal opportunities*
- *Eliminating discrimination*
- *Celebration of difference*
- *Eliminating harassment related to SEND*
- *Promoting positive attitudes towards SEND children*
- *Encouraging SEND children pupils to participate fully in the life of school*
- *Raising awareness of disability*

CONCLUSION

We will never be sure that we can eradicate bullying completely within our school but we will use the guidance within this document so that everyone works together in a joint approach to lessen its occurrence and **we will always act when bullying becomes apparent.**