Anti Bullying Policy

Bullying at school can have a profound effect on children's lives and can have a lasting effect on them into adulthood. It can undermine their self-esteem and self-confidence and often result in them becoming bullies themselves. The policy on Anti-Bullying has been drawn up within the school's ethos of promoting positive behaviour and acting upon the teaching of The Prophet Muhammad (SAW): 'One should love for his brother that which he loves for himself'.

Aims

To create within our school community, an atmosphere/ethos of trust, which values, respects and protects the rights of each of its members.

To be within a safe and secure environment.

To develop within the ethos and curriculum of our school, attitudes, skills and activities, which will prevent all aspects of bullying.

To foster trust among members of the school community so that bullying incidents can be reported, discussed and dealt with appropriately.

To encourage and foster active parental support in achieving those aims.

To follow the guidance laid down in the DfES guidance Preventing & Tackling Bullying (DFE-00292-2013)

Definition

Bullying is a deliberately hurtful act; can be isolated but is often repeated over a long period of time; difficult for victims to defend themselves against; and can take various forms as listed below:

Hitting, kicking, punching, damaging or stealing property, 'ganging' up on people, name calling, insulting, threatening, shouting/swearing, spreading nasty stories, exclusion from social groups, subject to malicious rumour, forcing someone to do something they do not wish to do, isolating someone, sending offensive/threatening texts or e-mails.

Prevention/Implementation

At Crystal Gardens Primary School as part of our strategy for promoting positive behaviour we look at attitudes, skills and activities which will prevent bullying.

- Children are taught Islamic values and the rights of one another.
- Children's contributions are valued and listened to.
- Children are helped to learn and practice the skills required to build good relationships with other children and adults within the school and the wider community.

Raising Pupil Awareness

Activities through which this can be developed: School council/ansaar scheme, playing games, role play, stories, poems, poster campaigns, competitions, writing, circle times, whole school assemblies, and group tutorials. Islamic Studies lessons on the characteristics that were promoted by the Blessed Prophet (saw) and how we should adopt these. Halqah sessions are held every morning before registration where children discuss the importance of sound Muslim character.

The children share experiences, think of other peoples' feelings, share opinions, explore difficult feelings, put themselves in other peoples shoes, develop self-respect, assertiveness, co-operation and independence. Whole school assemblies are held to raise bullying awareness. Anti-Bullying Week is celebrated annually where all children take part in fun anti-bullying activities to raise awareness.

Practical advice is shared with pupils in and around school on display boards. Children contribute to producing these displays Children design badges to promote anti bullying messages. These are then worn by students.

Raising Teacher Awareness:

Signs which may indicate bullying:
The child may:
Be unwilling to come to school, begin to do poorly in school work, become withdrawn, start acting out of character, by for example hitting other children, develop stomach aches or headaches, have a cut or bruise after playtimes.

Staff need to share concerns with other staff members on children who have conflicts between personalities not just dismiss it as 'children will be children'. Persistent behaviour of this manner needs to be recorded in the incident file.

Practical Advice for Parents:

- Encourage your child to talk about what has been going on in school, and talk through any minor incidents calmly to ascertain what has happened.
- Inform the school immediately if you feel there may be a bullying problem.
- Encourage your child to tell a teacher or the playground supervisors if they or any of their friends are experiencing difficulty in or out of school.
- Watch out for signs of stress in your child – headaches, sore stomachs, reluctance to come to school – they can be indications that all is not well. Investigate if toys/money starts to go missing.
- Take an active interest in friendships and out-of-school activities.
- Supervise situations where bullying may occur, e.g. walking to and from school.
- Avoid unsupervised exposure to violence on television/video/computer games. Spend some time discussing the different forms of violence – reality versus fantasy.

How to deal with bullying:

The following procedures are followed when investigating an allegation of bullying in order to ensure consistency across the school.

The bully, the victim or target and any bystander will be interviewed individually. Support will be given to the victim or target and to the bully to identify the negative behaviour, a preferred behaviour and any triggers leading to repeated bullying.

Accurate records of incidents will be entered in on individual pupil's Pupil Incident Reports file. It is essential to follow up after an incident to check the bully has not started again. This will be done within two weeks and again within the following term. Bullying can be very persistent and may recur. If pupils expect follow up, they are unlikely to start bullying again.

If the bullying incidents reveal a pattern of repeated behaviour, parents will be invited to school to discuss the situation and find strategies to support their child. Tougher measures include: removal from class, withdrawal of privileges, detention, fixed period exclusion, permanent exclusion.

Procedure to be followed as below:

Incident
Incident is recorded on all individual files as well as in the year incident file,
Second incident
Involving either victim or bully: parents informed and invited in to discuss the issues
Third incident
Formal warning given to bully (ies) and internal exclusion follows, etc. parents informed, appointment to see the school.
Subsequent incidents
Head's Exclusion

Monitoring/Evaluation

Regular reminders that the policy is in place will be given by members of staff through informal discussion, assemblies, newsletters, and letters to parents and staff meetings. Incidents of bullying will be monitored and the school's anti-bullying strategies constantly reviewed to ensure effectiveness.
The policy will be reviewed regularly through consultation with pupils, parents and teaching staff.

More Recent Types of Bullying

Youth Produced Sexual Imagery - Sexting

Sexting is when someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images or videos of themselves or others or sends sexually explicit messages. They can be sent using mobiles, tablets, smartphones laptops – any device that allows you to share media and messages. Sexting may also be called: trading nudes; dirties; pic for pic.
Sexting can be seen as harmless, but creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child. A young person is breaking the law if they: take an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend; share an explicit image or video of a child even if it's shared between children of the same age; possess, download or store an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be created.
As of January 2016 in England and Wales, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed but that taking formal action is not in the public interest.

Crimes recorded in this way are unlikely to appear on future records or checks, unless the young person has been involved in other similar activities which may indicate that they're a risk.

There are many reasons why a young person may want to send a naked or semi-naked picture, video or message to someone else; joining in because they think that 'everyone is doing it'; boosting their self-esteem; flirting with others and testing their sexual identity; exploring their sexual feelings; to get attention and connect with new people on social media; they may find it difficult to say no if somebody asks them for an explicit image, especially if the person asking is persistent.

Peer on peer abuse

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyber bullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

Faith Abuse

The term 'belief in spirit possession' is the belief that an evil force has entered a child and is controlling him or her. Sometimes the term 'witch' is used and is the belief that a child is able to use an evil force to harm others. There is also a range of other language that is connected to such abuse. This includes black magic, kindoki, ndoki, the evil eye, djinns, voodoo, obeah, demons, and child sorcerers. In all these cases, genuine beliefs can be held by families, carers, religious leaders, congregations, and the children themselves that evil forces are at work. Families and children can be deeply worried by the evil that they believe is threatening them, and abuse often occurs when an attempt is made to 'exorcise', or 'deliver' the child. Exorcism is the attempt to expel evil spirits from a child.

The belief in 'possession' or 'witchcraft' is widespread. It is not confined to particular countries, cultures or religions, nor is it confined to new immigrant communities in this country.

Any concerns about a child which arise in this context must be taken seriously.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets. Social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites and chat rooms such as Facebook, XBox Live, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and other chat rooms.

Upskirting - "Upskirting" typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. Although this harassment is known as "upskirting", people of any gender can be victims. Photos can be taken under any item of clothing including shorts and trousers.

Harassment - This is the act of sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages and being abusive. Nasty or humiliating comments on posts, photos and in chat rooms. Being explicitly offensive on gaming sites.

Denigration – This is when someone may send information about another person that is fake, damaging and untrue. Sharing photos of someone for the purpose to ridicule,

spreading fake rumours and gossip. This can be on any site online or on apps. We even hear about people altering photos of others and posting in online for the purpose of bullying.

Flaming – This is when someone is purposely using really extreme and offensive language and getting into online arguments and fights. They do this to cause reactions and enjoy the fact it causes someone to get distressed.

Impersonation – This is when someone will hack into someone's email or social networking account and use the person's online identity to send or post vicious or embarrassing material to/about others. The making up of fake profiles on social network sites, apps and online are common place and it can be really difficult to get them closed down.

Outing and Trickery – This is when someone may share personal information about another or trick someone into revealing secrets and forward it to others. They may also do this with private images and videos too.

Cyber Stalking – This is the act of repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm, harassment, intimidating messages, or engaging in other online activities that make a person afraid for his or her safety. The actions may be illegal too depending on what they are doing.

Exclusion – This is when others intentionally leave someone out of a group such as group messages, online apps, gaming sites and other online engagement. This is also a form of social bullying and a very common.