



Meadowbrook Primary Anti-Bullying Policy

Status: Statutory

Date: December 2010

Rationale:

The staff at Meadowbrook Primary School understand that bullying is an emotive issue for all concerned and as such we need to ensure that the intentions within this policy are shared with as wide an audience as possible. This policy is written to promote the safety and well being of all pupils at Meadowbrook Primary School. Bullying, in any form is not tolerated within our school, and is contrary to Meadowbrook Primary Schools' values.

In order to promote the safety, happiness and self-esteem of everyone within the work place the staff recognise the need to steadfastly implement the guidelines within this policy in conjunction with the discipline and behaviour policy. One way we can ensure this is by taking responsibility for modelling the types of behaviour that we would want to promote. Staff place a high regard on equal opportunities for all pupils and adults alike and are committed to responding to and challenging bullying.

Definition of Bullying:

At Meadowbrook Primary School we recognise that bullying takes a range of forms;

- **Emotional:** e.g. being unfriendly, teasing, tormenting, excluding
- **Physical:** e.g. pushing, kicking, hitting
- **Verbal:** e.g. name calling, spreading rumours
- **Cyber:** e.g. misuse of cameras, video facilities or mobile phones; misuse of the internet, email, social networking sites; mobile threats by text or phone
- **Extortion:** e.g. demanding money with threats, demanding food with threats, demanding goods with threats
- **Racist:** e.g. racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual:** e.g. unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments
- **Homophobic:** e.g. because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality)
- Bullying on account of a child's **special educational needs** or **disabilities**
- **Religious** e.g because of a child's faith or dress

Bullying:-

- ...goes on for a while or happens regularly
- ...is deliberate. The other person or persons want to hurt, humiliate or harm the target.
- ...involves someone (or several people) who are stronger in some way than the person being bullied. The person doing the bullying has more power; they are older, stronger (possibly both physically and emotionally), there are more of them or they have some 'hold' over the target (e.g. they know a secret about them).

Because these three things have to happen together for something to be called 'bullying' children at Meadowbrook Primary School will learn that bullying is not;

- A one off fight or argument.
- A friend sometimes being nasty.
- An argument with a friend.

How do we prevent bullying:-

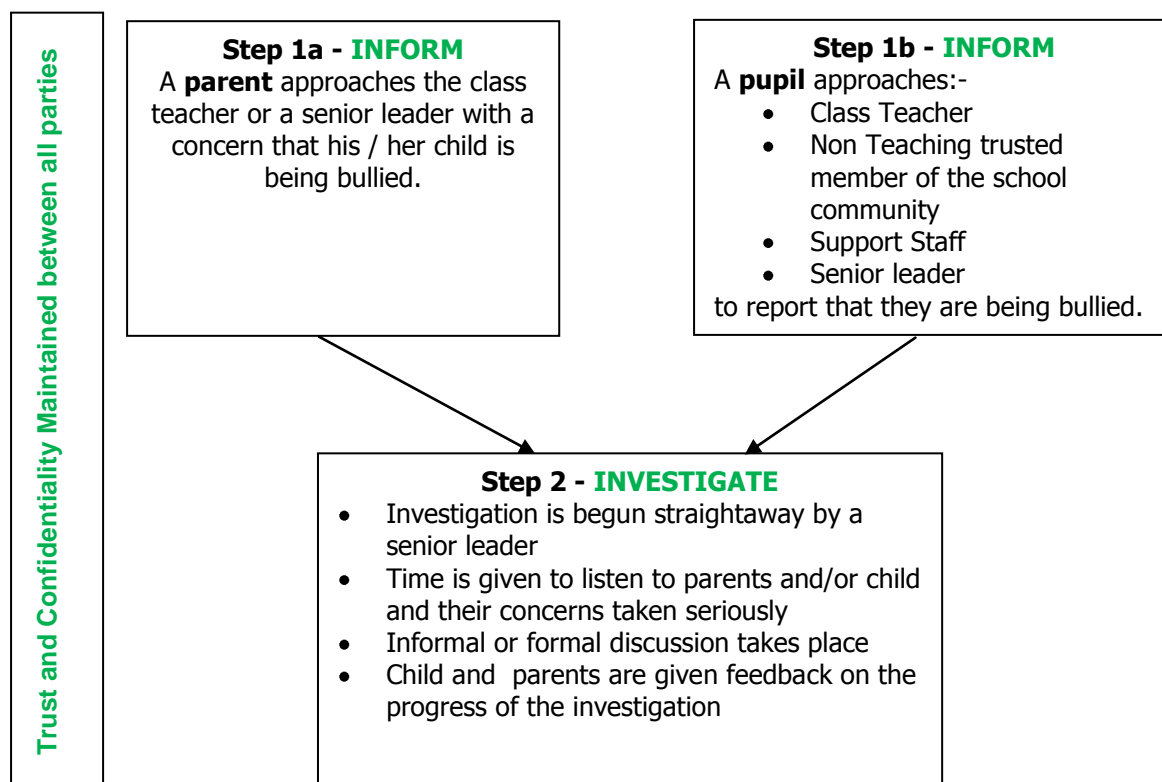
In May 2010 governors, parents and carers identified good practice at Meadowbrook Primary School to be that;

- Staff highlight and resolve issues effectively in the classes in the school
- There is open access to the headteacher and deputy headteacher by children and parents/carers
- Behavioural issues are dealt with appropriately
- There are communication books in classes to record incidents and inform supply teachers of concerns
- Children are listened to immediately
- Both families are informed when incidents occur

To prevent bullying we ensure;

- There is teaching of inclusive play and team building.
- There are teachers present at playtimes and trained lunchtime supervisors at lunchtime
- Lunchtimes clubs are run by children for children which develops quality relationships between children of different ages and engaging activity
- There are posters and pictures around the school highlighting key values
- Team work is explicitly taught in school
- There is a use of Time Out in the lunchtime club for children behaving inappropriately
- The Meadowbrook Wonderwall is celebrating positive behaviours
- Circle time and our PSHE &C curriculum are used to develop pupils' skills and empathy.
- Our Learning Mentors are available and provide a Quiet Zone weekly at lunchtime for children to discuss worries.
- The Anti Bullying policy is regularly shared with staff, parents/carers and children to ensure it is operated consistently

How we Respond to Bullying:-



If investigation proves that the child is being bullied

Step 3 - INTERVENTION

- The incident is recorded in the class incident book and communicated to the headteacher so they can be recorded using the Sentinel computer system (South Glos) and he/she can respond.
- The headteacher will communicate the conclusions and results of the investigation to the victim and perpetrators' parents/carers and agree strategies for the future .
- **Support and guidance given to both bullied**

Additional Identified Priorities to Prevent Bullying

Governors and Parents/carers identified a range of processes that would improve the school's prevention of bullying and these were introduced in November 2010.

- Teach children about safe play and risk
- Develop buddy benches, pupil mentoring in a Friendship Area-An identified quiet place at lunchtimes for children to go where an adult is available to discuss their concerns
- The recording of bullying incidents
- Explicit anti-bullying notices around the school

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

What are the signs and symptoms of bullying?

A person may indicate by signs or behaviours that they are being bullied. Everyone should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if the person;

- Is frightened of walking to or from school or changes route
- Doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- Begg to be driven to school
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Becomes aggressive, abusive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Starts stammering
- Threatens or attempts suicide
- Threatens or attempts self harm
- Threatens or attempts to run away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Performance in school work begins to drop
- Comes home with clothes torn, property damaged or 'missing'
- Asks for money or starts stealing money
- Has dinner or other monies continually 'lost'
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Comes home 'starving'
- Bullying others

- Changes in eating habits
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Nervous or jumpy when a cyber message is received
- Gives improbable excuses for their behaviour.

What to do if you think your child is being bullied:

If you suspect your child is being bullied talk to them and try to find out what has been happening at school.

- Talk over with your child about his/her experience of bullying
- Record what your child says- who is involved, how often the bullying occurred, where and what happened. Your child may wish to keep a diary of the bullying incidents.
- Reassure your child that he/she has done the right thing in telling you and encourage them to tell his/her teacher
- Make an appointment to see your child's teacher or the Headteacher.
- Explain calmly to the teacher about your child's experience (they may not be aware of the situation)
- Be specific about what your child has said- share written evidence.
- Record what action the school intends to take.
- Ask what you can do to help.
- Stay in touch with the school and let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

Further action to take if you are not satisfied:

- Ask to see the school policy on anti-bullying
- Make an appointment with the Head teacher

If still not satisfied:

- Write to the Chair of Governors, care of the school, explaining your concerns and what you would like to see happening.
- Contact local or national support groups for further information.

What to do if your child is bullying other children:

Children sometimes bully others because they don't know it's wrong; they are copying older brothers or sisters or other people in the family whom they admire; they haven't learnt other, better ways of mixing with their school friends; their friends encourage them to bully; they are going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings.

- Talk with your child and explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes other children unhappy.
- Discourage other members of your family from bullying behaviour or from using aggression or force to get what they want.
- Show your child how he/she can join in with other children without bullying.
- Make an appointment to see your child's class teacher or Headteacher; explain the problems your child is experiencing and discuss how you and the school can stop him/her bullying others.
- Regularly check with your child how things are going at school.
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement when he/she is kind to other children
- Source: Bullying don't suffer in silence DfEE, 2002

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

Adopted: December 2010

To be reviewed: December 2012