



## **Eastgate Academy Anti-bullying Policy**

### **Introduction**

This policy document sets out the school's aims, principles and strategies for dealing with bullying throughout the school. It will form the basis for the development of Anti Bullying in the school over the next 12 months.

Reference is made to the schools Health and Safety and Behaviour policies.

#### **TERMINOLOGY**

What is bullying?

- deliberately hurtful behaviour
- repeated, often over a period of time
- it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

There are three main types of bullying:-

- physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal – name-calling, insulting, racist remarks, winding-up.
- indirect – spreading stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups.

A working definition for use with children: -

A pupil is being bullied, or picked on, when another pupil or group of pupils repeatedly say nasty things to him or her. It is also bullying when a pupil is repeatedly hit, kicked, threatened, trapped inside a room, sent nasty notes, when no one ever talks to them and things like that.

#### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Whenever the opportunity arises it must be made profoundly clear that we will not tolerate bullying at Eastgate. Children must be encouraged to tell adults if they are bullied. Staff must be vigilant. Discussion of bullying should be encouraged in afternoon circles and response to instances of serious bullying through discussion with parents in restorative justice parental conference.

## **Why tackle bullying?**

- because we are an effective, caring school.
- bullying makes people unhappy and leads to low self-esteem.
- pupils who are being bullied are unlikely to concentrate fully on their schoolwork.
- some pupils avoid being bullied by not attending to school.
- pupils who observe unchallenged bullying behaviour are likely to copy this anti-social behaviour.
- we wish to build the self-esteem of all pupils, especially bullies and victims.

## **Recognising bullying**

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between 'play fighting' and bullying.

Children in play fights often:

- are smiling or laughing
- make mock blows or kicks which do not connect
- play in the open, and are ignored by other pupils

Children who are being physically bullied often:

- frown or look unhappy, or angry;
- try to move away from their aggressor;
- do not take turns;
- if in view of other pupils, may get considerable attention from the bully.

Comment on their insecure feelings during circle time.

Supervisors should 'keep an eye' on known bullies. They also need to watch for pupils who seem isolated or who regularly sit on the time out bench and often request circles.

## **Awareness of problem areas**

Organisational factors may be a source of behaviour problems, eg.

- insufficient toilet facilities
- cramped cloakrooms

These factors can lead to short tempers and conflict. Supervisors need to be vigilant in problem areas.

## **SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR CODE**

Rigorous and consistent application of this code is the first step to guarding against bullying.

Lunch-time and play-time behaviour code

- Don't hurt other children with words or deeds
- Call other children by their given name.
- Stand still and quiet at the whistle.
- If someone hurts you or is unkind to you call a circle or tell an adult.

Classroom rules

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Don't hurt other children with unkind words
- Do as you are told immediately.
- Work and talk quietly.
- Get on with your work and finish it.
- Put your hand up if you want attention.
- Call everyone by their given name only.
- Take care of everyone's belongings.

## **PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING**

- A circle is called, time out at edge of playground, spend their lunch with Mrs Snow/Ms Cook, Senior MSA to report incident to class teacher.
- If bullying is reported to a member of staff by a parent or child the class teacher of the named bully will investigate the problem straight away.
- If bullying is repeated, the child will be taken to the Principal.
- If the bullying or violence continues then the Principal will inform the parents and request a meeting.

If bullying or violence continues then the parents could be asked to remove the child for a fixed term, an afternoon, a day or sometimes longer.

## **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

Expected effects of anti-bullying policy:

- staff are more vigilant in response to bullying behaviour.
- pupils feel that the school is trying to reduce and prevent bullying behaviour.
- pupils feel that there is generally less bullying in school.