



Roe Valley Integrated Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Our Mission Statement

We, the governors and staff of Roe Valley Integrated Primary School believe that the school is a vital part of our community. We are committed to: the aims of integrated education; working closely with parents in the education of their children; high academic standards; developing positive and effective pastoral care systems in our school. This is achieved through commitment of our staff and the realisation of the creativity and learning potential of all our pupils and employees.

Ethos

We, at Roe Valley Integrated Primary School, aim to provide a safe school where bullying will not be tolerated.

Introduction

The school accepts the following definition of bullying behaviour:

“Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or intimidate someone.”

Bullying is something that many of us experienced as children. It is not a new phenomenon. Nor is it limited to the world of children and school. However, just because it has always been there is not a good reason for ignoring it. Bullying is hurtful and destructive both to the target and the person engaged in bullying behaviour. No pupil deserves to be bullied.

We reject all bullying.

Shared Education – Shared Future

| PHYSICAL | EMOTIONAL | NON- VERBAL | VERBAL |
|-----------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Kicking | Pulling Faces | Leaving out | Laughing at |
| Tripping | Staring | Spreading Rumours | Calling Names |
| Throwing Stones | Writing nasty notes | Being selfish | Ridiculing |
| Elbowing | Sticking tongue out | Sign with fingers | Interrupting |
| Shouldering | Talking behind back | Ignoring, isolating and excluding | Sectarian remarks |
| Pulling hair | Deliberate spiteful action | Dirty looks | Racial remarks |
| Spitting | Making fun of someone's physical features/appearance etc | Stealing, hiding or damaging other properties | Making fun of someone's family |

Positive Action to Create A Safe and Child Friendly Environment

The following procedures are set in place to help both the targets of bullying and the children engaged in bullying behaviour.

1. Respect is highlighted during circle time, class rules, PDMU and through our school ethos and culture.
2. Develop self esteem, reward good behaviour, behaviour chart.
3. The school environment is a safe place where bullying is not easy:
 - All areas of the school will be supervised
 - Spot checks will take place (playgrounds, toilets etc)
4. Activities are provided for pupils during break times. E.g. (Wet play books, games, outdoor playtime equipment)
5. Extra curricular activities are organised and these help to develop social skills and self-esteem in a less academic atmosphere.
6. An anti-bullying survey will be completed by each pupil in years 3-7 during National Anti-Bullying week to ascertain the children's views on bullying behaviours.
7. Suggestion boxes will be made available in all classes so that pupils can anonymously put in a worry or suggestion for class teachers to deal with.
8. The school has in place many positive behaviour strategies to encourage a caring ethos within school. E.g. Star of The Day and Star of The Week Reward, Reward Charts, celebrating success, Behaviour Contract, Golden Hand Awards, monitors.

**Procedures for dealing with
the child engaged in bullying behaviour**

Any pupil or concerned adult who has a concern about bullying will be listened to and believed and action taken.

1. Contact the school.
2. Ask to speak to the Principal or Senior Teacher.
3. Records kept of all discussions/meeting.
4. Contacting parent/carers of all pupils concerned in the behaviour.
5. Investigation.
6. Feedback to those concerned.
7. Support for all parties.
8. Sanctions.
9. Contacting relevant professionals, such as EWO, Educational Psychologist, etc.

The Responsibilities of Staff:

Our staff will:

- Foster in our pupils self-esteem, self respect and respect for others;
- Demonstrate example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils;
- Discuss anti-bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is targeted and to the child engaged in bullying behaviour, and the importance of telling the teacher about bullying WHEN it happens;
- Be alert to the signs of distress and other possible indicators of bullying;
- Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them;
- Report suspected cases of bullying to the class teacher and incidents of high risk or concerns should be referred directly to the Principal or Senior Teacher;
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures with agreed and to record the incidents on a confidential form which is copied and given to the principal.
- Inform all other relevant members of staff who will help to monitor the situation and report back to the class teacher who will inform the pupil or adult on any action taken;
- Attend relevant in-service programmes to ensure they maintain a comprehensive understanding of the nature and extent of bullying in school and appropriate prevention/intervention practices;
- Interview those involved in an alleged bullying incident both separately and together;
- The NO BLAME APPROACH will be used initially to offer reassurance to all parties involved;
- Interview the target and any relevant witnesses;
- Talk to the child engaged in bullying behaviour and, if necessary, their parents/carers to make it clear that bullying is unacceptable.

The class teacher or any member of staff will report the incident to the **PRINCIPAL** if:

- Frequent complaints about the same child occurs;
- The initial incident is particularly aggressive or disturbing.

The Principal will:

- Inform both sets of parents/carers of any sanctions or threatened sanctions the school will enforce if there is a re-occurrence;
- Should any repercussions occur sanctions* will be imposed;
- Reserve the right together with the Board of Governors to suspend and ultimately exclude anyone who persists with bullying behaviour.

*[refer to The Discipline Policy; Pastoral Care Policy; Child Protection Policy; the positive Behaviour Policy; Senco Procedures]

The Responsibilities of Parents

We ask our parents to support their children and the school by:

- Endorsing their children's anti-bullying pledge;
- Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying, example, poor appetite, reluctance to come to school and report this to the class teacher;
- Advising their child to report any bullying behaviour to their class teacher;
- Advising their children **NOT** to retaliate violently to any form of bullying;
- Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken;
- Co-operating with the school, if their children are accused of engaging in bullying behaviour, try to ascertain the truth, and point out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are targeted and for the children engaged with bullying behaviour themselves.

The Responsibilities of Pupils

We expect our pupils to:

- Sign up to our anti-bullying pledge;
- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying;
- Watch out for each other and report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying.

Anyone who becomes the target of bullying should:

- Not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out;
- Everyone should work together to combat and eradicate bullying.

**Pupils if you are being
bullied you should:**

Tell Someone

If you are being bullied at school or coming to and from school tell someone:

Your friends

Your teacher

Your parents

Your classroom assistant

Any adult in school

Tell anyone



Parents if you are concerned about a bullying incident:

Talk to your child about positive strategies they could use to stand up to the child engaged in bullying behaviour [stay calm, act confidently, walk away, change the subject, ignore them, stay with a friend, avoid being nasty back]

If this does not resolve the situation

Contact your child's class teacher.

If this does not resolve the situation

Contact the school principal, Mrs Quinn

If this does not resolve the situation

Contact the Chairperson of The Board of Governors, Mr Paul Canning

If this does not resolve the situation

Contact the Welfare Education Officer at the Western Education Library Board
Tel: 028 82 411 411

