

**HEATHCOAT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ANTI-BULLYING  
POLICY**

**And Staff Resources**

# HEATHCOAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ANTI BULLYING POLICY

### Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. *Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school.* If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

### What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of emotionally or physically hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional, being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical, pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist, racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual, unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic, because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal, name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber, All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse  
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls  
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

### Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

## Objectives

All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

## Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs 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
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- often feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money/things (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies/possessions continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be fully investigated.

## Procedures

1. Report ALL bullying incidents to staff, keeping senior staff informed
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious or repeated cases, parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, police/social services will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly, through agreed school strategies
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour, but exclusion will be considered if appropriate
7. Racist bullying must be recorded and the LA informed as appropriate

## Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place

## Prevention

We will use established agreed methods for helping children to prevent bullying.

- signing a behaviour contract
- writing a set of “our” school/class/playground rules (annually)
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays (or using KIDSCAPE role-plays)
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- use of circle time and other such activities
- KIDSCAPE materials
- through a rich curriculum that helps pupils to explore and understand their own emotions and those of other pupils
- through a rich and well balanced curriculum that recognises and values diversity within groups and cultures
- through a school ethos that recognises and celebrates every pupil's achievements and valued contribution within the school and its' community

**Policy date: Nov 2012.....Next review date by staff/governors 2014**

### HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)  
Children's Legal Centre  
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)  
Parentline Plus  
Youth Access

0808 800 5793  
0845 345 4345  
0845 1 205 204  
0808 800 2222  
020 8772 9900

Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

(Acknowledgement to KIDSCAPE)