

# LETHBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ANTI BULLYING POLICY

***This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's equalities policies with which it complies.***

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at schools.

### **Bullying is not:**

- ☆ falling out with people
- ☆ short term arguments
- ☆ friends breaking up
- ☆ occasional teasing

**Bullying is** anti-social behaviour defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, **repeated over a period of time**, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

The main types of bullying are:

Categories	Forms
Verbal bullying	Persistent teasing, name calling, taunts, threats, sarcasm, spreading rumours
Physical bullying	Pushing, pinching, punching, kicking, use of weapon
Emotional bullying	Exclusion (you're not playing with us), sending to Coventry, ridicule, humiliation
Extortion bullying	Forcing someone to hand over money, sweets, crisps or valuables
Hiding bullying	Coat, books, shoes, PE kit or precious items go missing (from pegs, cloakroom, drawer, bags)
Racist bullying	Racial taunts (making fun of customs, dress, music, accent, colour etc) graffiti, gestures
Bullying by gestures	Fists, sticking up two (or one) fingers, grimace, putting two fingers in mouth denoting physical sickness, give someone 'bad looks'
Spoiling things	Scribbling on class work, homework or destroying a game
Cyber bullying	Inappropriate e-mail and/or text messages and use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter
Homophobic Bullying	Use of the word 'gay' as a derogatory term. Taunting pupils by calling them words associated with homosexuality. Homophobic comments should be treated in the same way as racist comments

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. Pupils must be encouraged to report bullying in schools.

## **Statutory duty of schools**

Head teachers have a legal duty under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils. This policy is designed to ensure that as a school we are alert to signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it.

## **Aims**

- to promote a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behaviour
- to take positive action to prevent bullying from occurring through a clear school policy on Personal and Social development
- to show commitment to overcoming bullying by practising zero tolerance
- to inform children and parents of the school's expectation and to foster a productive working partnership, which helps to maintain a bully-free environment
- to make staff aware of their role in fostering the knowledge and attitudes which will be required to achieve the above aims.

## **Procedures**

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- An account of the incident will be recorded in an 'Incident Log Book' and given to the designated member of staff responsible for monitoring bullying within the school. This logbook is confidential and will be kept centrally. The designated member of staff is the headteacher.
- The designated member of staff will interview all concerned and will record clearly the discussion in the book.
- The headteacher and class teachers will be kept informed.
- If, over a period of time, there is evidence from the Incident Log Book that children are using bullying behaviour, the parents will then be informed.
- Sanctions will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned. These will range from missing playtimes to suspension. This will also be recorded in the Incident Log Book.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff of their choice
- reassuring the pupil

- offering continuous support through regular opportunities to talk with a member of staff or peer mentor
- restoring self-esteem and confidence

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- discussing what happened
- discovering why the pupil became involved
- establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil
- participating in 'social group' activities

Within the curriculum the school will raise awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, assemblies, schools council specifically reviewing the 'Anti bullying charter', displaying child friendly posters, school repeatedly revisiting the topic of bullying throughout the year in an attempt to enable children to understand the implications of their actions and eradicate such behaviour

### **Staff responsibilities**

- to implement procedures to confront bullying in any form
- to listen to all parties involved in incidents
- to investigate as fully as possible
- to take appropriate action and refer the matter to the headteacher for further action
- to record and inform parents of bullying incidents
- to promote the use of a range of teaching and learning styles and strategies which challenge bullying e.g. role-play, circle-time
- to foster by example the value in which we as a school believe
- to promote the use of interventions which are at least intrusive and most effective
- to record incidents of bullying in an Incident Log Book
- to retain records for monitoring purposes

### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout Lethbridge Primary School.

***Reviewed November 2016  
To be reviewed November 2018***

## Lethbridge Primary School Council Anti-Bullying Charter

- We believe that Lethbridge Primary School should be bully free.
- Every child at our school has the right to be safe and happy. They have the right to learn and play free from intimidation and fear, both in the school and outside.
- We do not tolerate physical violence, name-calling, exclusion from a group, or other actions that could damage a child's self-esteem.
- We respect each other's belongings. Damaging, hiding or stealing another person's property is a form of bullying.
- We celebrate our differences and respect each other's strengths and weaknesses. When somebody makes a mistake or is not good at something we help them. We know that we can learn from making mistakes.
- We have a responsibility to make good choices about our own behaviour. We work together to make the school a happy place.
- Every member of Lethbridge Primary School has the responsibility to tell someone if they know somebody is being bullied. If we are worried about bullying we can go to any adult who will speak to the Headteacher. Everyone will take complaints seriously.
- Teachers deal with possible problems sensitively and may talk to our parents and carers.
- We regularly review our anti-bullying policy to try and make improvements. We welcome the help of governors, teachers and other children. We are always open to new ideas from other schools and groups of people.

(Chair)

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*Signed on behalf of the School's Council*

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*Head Teacher*

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*Chair of Governors*