

# MILL HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

### Mission Statement

At Mill Hill Primary School we are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our school. We take all incidents of bullying seriously. Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect and pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving. At Mill Hill Primary School we acknowledge that bullying does happen from time to time – indeed, it would be unrealistic to claim that it does not. When bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively in accordance with our anti-bullying policy. We are a **TELLING** school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

### Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to try and prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. The implementation of this policy will create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in. All members of the school have a responsibility to recognise bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy. This will happen in the following ways:

- The school will meet the legal requirement for all schools to have an anti-bullying policy in place.
- The school will work closely with other professional agencies to ensure that children stay safe as stated in The Children Act 1989, The SEN and Disability Act 2001, The Government Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' 2003 (outcome 2) and The Children Act 2004.
- All teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying and will consistently and swiftly follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils will know what the school policy is on bullying and what they can do if bullying occurs.
- Pupils and parents/guardians will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

- Whole school initiatives (staff training, celebration assemblies etc) and proactive teaching strategies (PHSE [Personal, Health & Social Education] lessons, circle time etc) will be used throughout the school to reduce the opportunities for bullying to occur.
- A positive, caring ethos will be created within the school environment where everyone can work, play and express themselves, free from the fear of being bullied

## **What Is Bullying?**

***Bullying is any deliberate, hurtful, upsetting, frightening or threatening behaviour by an individual or a group towards other people. It is repeated over a period of time and it is very difficult for the victims to defend themselves (remember STOP – it happens Several Times On Purpose). Bullying is mean and results in worry, fear, pain and distress to the victim/s.***

Bullying can be:

- Emotional; being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures), ridicule, humiliation
- Verbal; name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone
- Physical; pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, throwing stones, biting, spitting, punching or any other forms of violence, taking or hiding someone's things.
- Racist; racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, making fun of culture and religion
- Sexual; unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive or sexist comments.
- Homophobic; because of/or focussing on the issue of sexuality.
- Online/cyber setting up 'hate websites', sending offensive text messages, emails and abusing the victims via their mobile phones.
- Any unfavourable or negative comments, gestures or actions made to someone relating to their disability or special educational needs.

## **Bullying is not:**

It is important to understand that bullying is not the *odd occasion* of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose (STOP).

Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of

children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

## **Where does bullying happen?**

It can happen anywhere – in the classroom, in the corridor, in the toilets, in the dining hall, in the playground and on the way to and from school, but schools are only legally responsible for bullying incidents which occur on the school premises. However, at Mill Hill Primary School, we are also concerned with our children's conduct and welfare outside school and we will do what we can to support and address any bullying issues that occur off the school premises.

## **Role of parents**

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy. We ask parents to:

- Look out for unusual behaviour in your child – for example, they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their usual standard.
- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with etc.
- If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform school immediately. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- If a child has bullied your child, please do not approach that child on the playground or involve an older child to deal with the bully. Please inform school immediately.
- It is important that you advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse!
- Tell your child that it is not their fault that they are being bullied.
- Reinforce the school's policy concerning bullying and make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help.
- If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately.

## **Procedures for reporting and responding to bullying incidents**

All staff will respond calmly and consistently to all allegations and incidents of

bullying at Mill Hill Primary School. They will be taken seriously by all staff and dealt with impartially and promptly. All those involved will have the opportunity to be heard. Staff will protect and support all children involved whilst allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved. The following step-by-step procedure will be used for reporting and responding to bullying allegations or incidents:

1. Report all bullying allegations and incidents to staff.
2. Staff will make sure the victim(s) is and feels safe.
3. Appropriate advice will be given to help the victim(s).
4. Staff will listen and speak to all children involved about the incident separately.
5. The problem will be identified and possible solutions suggested.
6. Staff will attempt to adopt a problem solving approach which will move children on from them having to justify their behaviour.
7. Appropriate action will be taken quickly to end the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying.
8. Staff will reinforce to the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable.
9. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place and appropriate sanctions applied.
10. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
11. An attempt will be made, and support given, to help the bully (bullies) understand and change his/her/their behaviour.
12. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff and reports will be kept.
13. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be invited to come into school for a meeting to discuss the problem.
14. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
15. Bullying incidents will be discussed regularly at staff meetings.

**The following sanctions may be used:**

- Apologise to the victim(s) verbally or in writing.
- Loss of privileges.
- Spend playtimes and lunchtimes with an adult.
- Parents will be invited in to school.
- Red card and red letter
- Be removed from class and work in isolation.
- Be withdrawn from participation in school visit, clubs and events not essential to the curriculum.
- Lunchtime exclusion

- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

## **Strategies for the prevention and reduction of bullying**

Whole school initiatives and proactive teaching strategies will be used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing the opportunities for bullying to occur. These can include:

- Each class agreeing on their own set of class rules.
- Taking part in national anti-bullying week.
- Awareness raised through anti-bullying assemblies.
- PHSE (Personal, Health & Social Education) from Reception to Year 6 used to support this policy.
- Circle time on bullying issues
- Use of SEAL as part of the curriculum to support children in developing key skills in emotional and social development
- Introducing playground improvements and initiatives.
- Using praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour.
- Encouraging the whole school community to model appropriate behaviour towards one another

## **Monitoring and evaluation of the policy**

To ensure this policy is effective, it will be regularly monitored and evaluated. Following an annual review, suggestions for amendments will be presented to the Governors.

## **Sources of further information, support and help**

There is a vast amount of information and guidance available about bullying that can provide a wide range of support and help. The following list is just a small selection of the support available that teachers, parents and children have found useful.

Name of organisation Telephone number Website

Kidscape	020 7730 3300 (general enquiry number) 08451 205 204 (helpline for adults only) <a href="http://www.kidscape.org.uk">www.kidscape.org.uk</a>
Childline	0800 1111 (helpline for children)

Parentline Plus	<a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a> 0808 800 2222
Anti-bullying Alliance	<a href="http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk">www.parentlineplus.org.uk</a> 0207 843 1901
NSPCC	<a href="http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org">www.anti-bullyingalliance.org</a> 0808 800 5000 <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk">www.nspcc.org.uk</a>

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Link with behaviour policy