

West Town Lane Academy

'Where learning is an adventure'



Anti-Bullying Policy

Children's rights and responsibilities:

Article 14 - Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.....

Article 19 - Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 28 - All children and young people have a right to primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of;

Article 29 - Education should develop each child's personality to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

Article 30 - Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

Rationale:

West Town Lane Academy recognises that bullying can occur in school, and is committed to dealing with cases promptly and efficiently. Our definition of bullying is 'deliberate and repeated use of aggression causing physical pain and/or emotional distress'. It will not be tolerated in school and this message will be reinforced through lessons, assemblies and the School Council.

Bullying can take many forms, and can be broadly categorised into six main groups:

- Physical Bullying- includes any physical contact such as hitting, kicking, punching, or taking something that belongs to someone else.
- Verbal Bullying- this could be name calling, making offensive remarks or threats of violence.
- Indirect Bullying- This can occur when someone spreads rumours or stories about someone, telling 'tales' on others or disclosing something to others that was told to you in private.
- Social Alienation- occurs when a bully excludes someone deliberately from a group in order to cause them misery.

- Intimidation- is when bullying threatens someone else and frightens the person enough to do what the bully wants.
- Cyberbullying- through sending messages, pictures or other information via electronic media such as texts, email or via social networking.

Purpose:

To ensure the safety and security of all pupils.

To ensure that bullying is discussed in class and not treated as a taboo subject.

To approach all incidents in a consistent manner.

To maintain an ethos of respect, with cases of bullying at an absolute minimum.

Guidelines:

The curriculum will address bullying through the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) programmes 'I know, I am, I can' and 'SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)'. Bullying will be discussed by all year groups at some point during the academic year.

Every class must have a Charter and a 'worry box', and bullying should be discussed as part of this work.

Children will all know the procedures in place for reporting bullies (class teacher, teaching assistant, School Council etc or telling parent/carer at home). Children will be listened to, and action taken. The course of action taken will depend on the severity of the bullying, age of the children, attitude of the children concerned and timescales.

The flow chart attached to this policy is a useful guide to the steps the school will take to deal with bullying

Possible action includes:

- If caught early enough, a discussion with the children concerned may be all that is required to prevent further cases. Staff would monitor this situation.
- When bullying is severe it would be appropriate to inform the parents/carers and ask them to attend a meeting. Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) may be drawn up by the school. This would have more formal monitoring.
- All teaching staff being advised via email of bullying incidents causing concern
- Social Skills education is available on a 'small group' basis for those children who would benefit.

- Additional support is available at lunch periods for children who may be vulnerable to monitor them and ensure they aren't being a victim of bullying, and also to monitor the behaviour of the potential bullies in order to rectify their behaviour. The learning mentor may also be utilised.
- Exclusions can be used by the school in persistent cases or where the school feels other children would be in danger.

The school may choose to have awareness campaigns at times if the level of bullying rises in school or it is felt that the profile needs to be raised. Children should all learn the harm that bullying can cause and parents and carers will be expected to co-operate with the school over any issue of bullying and take the matter seriously.

Conclusion

Our school has a reputation for being welcoming and inclusive. Children should enjoy coming to school and so enjoy learning. We will always act promptly where incidents of bullying occur ensuring that the victims are supported and the bullies are taught different ways of dealing with situations.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with our Behaviour Policy and safety policy

.....*Chair of Governors*

June 2014

First allegation of bullying



Repeated allegations and/or serious cases of bullying

