

## Vallis First School Anti-bullying Policy

This policy adopts the definition of bullying agreed by the Frome Learning Partnership: "Bullying is a wilful, conscious and repeated act which aims to hurt, threaten or frighten someone."

Bullying can be physical, verbal or indirect eg excluding the victim, destroying or hiding possessions or making rude gestures. It can take place on line - cyberbullying.

**Bullying will not be tolerated.**

### **Aims of this policy**

- To promote cooperative and sensitive behaviour
- To create a climate in which pupils feel safe to talk about bullying
- To teach strategies for dealing with bullying
- To ensure a consistent whole school approach to tackling bullying
- To engage parental support and assistance
- To suggest ways of helping the victim and the bully and to support their parents.

### **Implementation**

Education about acceptable behaviour education is delivered throughout the curriculum particularly during assemblies, circle times and lessons and when resolving issues in class or in the playground.

We have a team of Anti-bullying ambassadors who have been trained through the Diana Awards Scheme. This team of children work with the adult in charge to create regular assemblies which promote kindness and plan opportunities to discuss bullying and what to do about it. These children will check the 'worry/sorry' yellow boxes to see if a child has used this method to communicate.

The School Policy is to encourage children to 'tell an adult' themselves or get a friend to tell an adult.

Staff work hard to create positive relationships with children and their parents at both formal and informal meetings.

Staff and governors are involved in drawing up policies and receive appropriate training to ensure consistencies in approaches.

### **Procedures:**

- All reports of bullying are taken very seriously and are investigated thoroughly by class teachers and if ongoing a member of the Senior Management team or the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher.
- Evidence from the victim their parents and other children or adults may be used to identify whether a child is being bullied.

### **How do we support the victim?**

The victim will be reassured by the Senior staff and other adults in the school that they are believed and 'it is not their fault'.

The adults should praise the child for speaking up and being brave.

They will be offered support to help build their self esteem and to give them strategies to help them to be assertive when faced with bullying behaviour.

The class teacher may carry out a Circle Time to focus on ways of preventing bullying and teaching response strategies.

Support from friendly peers may be set up and adults will monitor the safety and well being of the child around the school.

The victim will receive an apology from the bully if they would like this.

### **How do we deal with the bully?**

The incidents will be discussed with them to discover the reason for the bullying which is often due to a child not having friends or not being good at something or because they don't like the 'victim'.

The bully will be made aware that their behaviour was bullying.

The bully will be asked to apologise to the victim if that is what the victim would like and an appropriate sanction will be imposed.

Children who bully will be supported to help change their behaviour including close monitoring in class and around the school.

It will be made clear that the bullying behaviour cannot continue and if it does it may result in exclusion. (Serious cases of bullying including racist bullying may result in immediate exclusion).

Parents may be contacted and they will be offered support to help their child.

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