

Earlscliffe (Sussex Summer Schools Ltd)

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Statement of Intent

This policy is applicable to all pupils in the school. Bullying is unacceptable and unwanted at Earlscliffe.

This policy follows the guidance given in “Don’t Suffer in Silence” and “Safe to Learn: embedding anti bullying work in school.”

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.

Anti-bullying tenets are communicated to pupils within the general curriculum (as outlined in the Curriculum Policy statement) through PHSE and Citizenship sessions at daily Forum led by Group Tutors and importantly at the very start of the academic year during Orientation Week.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of 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 bullying use of ICT, social web sites, mobile phones, text, e mail, to deliberately upset someone. This can take the form of threat, intimidation, defamation, exclusion, unauthorised publication of private information or images, invasion of personal space

Staff are expected to refer to the DfE guidance “Cyberbullying – Safe to Learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools”

You can download this publication or order copies online at

www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Search using the ref: DCSF-00658-2007

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 of this Policy

- All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All 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
- is frightened of attending school
- doesn't want to go on the school coach
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant or miss lessons
- 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
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- uniform clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has Tuck Shop or pocket monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- 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
- becomes very sensitive over any nationality/race issues

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

Procedures

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 the following methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- reading the Student Handbook
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or designing anti-bullying posters
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk
Kidscape website	www.kidscape.org.uk