

Anti-Bullying Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Bullying is a **repeated** action taken by one or more children with the **deliberate intention** of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally.
- 1.2 It is very important to make a distinction between bullying (which is persistent and deliberate), and any isolated incidents of bad behaviour.

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 Bullying is wrong and can often have a negative impact individual children. In Brackenagh West Primary School we do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as totally unacceptable.
- 2.2 We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where everyone can learn without anxiety.
- 2.3 This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- 2.4 We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

3 The Role of Governors

- 3.1 The Governors support the Principal in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the Governors do not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.
- 3.2 The Governors are informed of any major incidents of bullying that occur, and will review the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the Principal to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.
- 3.3 The Governors will respond within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the Governors will notify the Principal and ask him to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to the Chairperson.

4 The Role of the Principal

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the Principal to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The Principal reports to the Governors about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy, on request.

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- 4.2 The Principal ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Principal draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments (eg: in Assembly), and will ensure this is also done by the other members of staff.
- 4.3 The Principal ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.
- 4.4 The Principal sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success and good behaviour, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is much less likely to be part of their behaviour.

5 The Role of the Teacher

- 5.1 Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in the school.
- 5.2 If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Principal, the teacher informs the child's parents.
- 5.3 If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to take steps to ensure the child changes his/her behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Principal. We may then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Principal may contact external support agencies.
- 5.4 Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

6 The Role of Parents

- 6.1 Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, **should contact their child's class teacher immediately.**
- 6.2 Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

7 Monitoring and Review

- 7.1** This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Principal, who reports to the Governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.
- 7.2** This anti-bullying policy is the Governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness as necessary.

Last reviewed: October 2017