

The Eden SDA School



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Purpose: All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is. They should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported, and what they should do if bullying arises.

Approval Body: Board of Governors

SLT Lead Person: Mrs **Lynthia Grant**

Lead Governor for Policy: Mrs Roselyn Aird-Munn

Date of Approval: March 2009

Last Review Date: July 2020

Proposed reviewed Date: July 2021

Anti-Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

At The Eden SDA 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 let someone know so that the bullying will stop.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggressive behaviour, name-calling or intimidation with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be short term or continuous over long periods of time.

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** - all areas of internet , such as email & internet chat room misuse

Mobile threats by text messaging & calls

Misuse of associated technology i.e. camera & video facilities

To a child bullying is:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated
- Difficult to counteract by the victim
- Different from random acts

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 governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

- All governors and 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 at The Eden SDA School.

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
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- 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
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- 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 and jumpy when a cyber message is received

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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to the class teacher
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
3. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
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 these methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate these may include:

- writing a set of school or class rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- 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

Policy to be reviewed March 2020

This policy is based on advice provided by Kidscape.

HELP ORGANISATIONS

Childline 08001111

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE parent helpline 0845 1205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

March 2020