

<b>ANTI - BULLYING POLICY</b>
<b>ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL</b>
<b>Reviewed by Senior Leadership Team: October 2020</b>
<b>Approved by Governance Board (Curriculum and Standards Committee): 21 October 2020</b>
<b>Review date: Autumn 2024</b>

**Rationale**

At Abbotswood Junior School we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn in a happy and secure atmosphere. We expect everyone to listen and be polite to one another, to think of others and to respect one another and each other’s property. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell an adult in school and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

**Objectives**

- All staff, governors, pupils and parents should have a shared understanding of bullying
- Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated
- Clear procedures for reporting bullying should be understood and followed to ensure incidents can be dealt with swiftly
- All staff will follow the anti-bullying procedures to provide a consistent response to any bullying incidents which occur

**Definition of Bullying**

Bullying:

- Is deliberately hurting another person
- Is something that happens over and over again
- Involves a power imbalance which makes it hard for victims to defend themselves

Bullying can take various forms and can be carried out by adults or children. It can include:

- Physical – pushing, hitting, kicking, spitting, taking others’ belongings, damaging others’ belongings
- Verbal – name-calling, teasing, insulting, making offensive remarks which can be of a discriminatory nature, e.g.
  - Racist, sexist, transphobic or homophobic
  - Based on a person’s appearance, difference, special needs, disabilities, faith or beliefs
  - In relation to a person’s capacity as a young carer or being looked-after (in care)
- Emotional – being unfriendly, tormenting, excluding, rumour spreading, being the victim of jokes
- Social/Cyber – misuse of social media, email/internet chat rooms, mobile threats by texting and calls

**Prevention**

Strategies for the prevention of bullying include:

- Curriculum focus work including PSHE lessons and Circle Time activities to promote positive friendships
- Assemblies focusing on values and beliefs
- The development of an open culture and problem solving ethos where children are encouraged to talk through issues and to find solutions together

- Provision of activities and supervision at lunch and playtimes to minimise inappropriate behaviour
- Timetabled support provided by trained ELSAs for children with concerns
- Peer mentor system
- Discussions in School Council
- Children are taught to report any bullying, and not be a 'bystander'

### **The Role of Parents and Carers**

Parents and carers can play an important role in detecting bullying. A child may indicate that he/she is being bullied through various behaviours such as:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Performance in school begins to deteriorate
- Becomes withdrawn or unhappy
- Regularly has possessions which "go missing"
- Becomes distressed, cries easily or stops eating
- Has nightmares or begins bed wetting
- Becomes uncharacteristically disruptive or aggressive
- Frightened to say what's wrong

These signs could always indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered as one possibility and parents/carers are encouraged to inform the school as soon as possible in these circumstances. Parents/carers have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their children to report issues as they happen directly.

### **Summary**

All reports of bullying will be taken seriously and will be fully investigated. Appropriate measures will be taken to reassure and support the victim and modify the behaviour and/or attitude of the bully.