



RYE HILLS SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Policy Reviewed: March 2010

Agreed by Governors:

Issued to Parent/Carers:

Next Review: March 2012

[Summary of Policy](#)

The school accepts that there is no such thing as an acceptable level of bullying. This policy covers the ways in which it tackles bullying within the school.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The school accepts that there is no such thing as an acceptable level of bullying. Children have the right to expect that they will not be bullied at school.

Consequently, we aim to provide a safe, caring and protective environment for all students to enable them to engage fully with their studies and enjoy the social interaction of their peers.

- The school will take action to deal with incidents of bullying and will attempt to bring about conditions in which bullying is less likely to happen in the future, through control and prevention measures.
- The school will seek to secure the support and co-operation of parents/carers and other agencies to resolve bullying problems.
- The school will consider the particular combination of factors that have led to bullying and define the most appropriate response. There is no one correct solution.
- Bullying behaviour will be discouraged. Disapproval will be directed at the behaviour and not at the child.
- Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in Citizenship/PSHCE, tutorial time, assemblies and subject areas as appropriate and displays around the school.
- School operates a lunchtime club for vulnerable youngsters.

The school will review this policy bi-ennially and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying is frequently defined as persistent, systematic aggression. However, if only a single incident occurs, it is still important that action is taken to stop it.

The sooner action is taken, the easier it is to resolve the difficulty.

WHAT FORMS DOES BULLYING TAKE?

The three main type of bullying are:

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- Verbal (name calling, racist or sexual remarks)
- Indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)

The use of electronic forms of communication such as mobile phones, i-pods and internet chat sites can be used to initiate bullying, intimidate and spread malicious gossip.

DETECTING BULLYING

Parents and teachers need to be able to recognise the signs of distress, which may indicate that a child is being bullied. Any marked change in a child's behaviour, especially in established patterns of behaviour, may indicate that the child is under stress:

- Lacerations, bruises or aches and pains, which are not adequately explained.
- Clothes or possessions are damaged or lost.
- The child requests extra money or starts stealing.
- The child starts going to or returning from school at an earlier or later time or starts using a different route.
- The child starts refusing to go outside at breaktime or refuses to stay at school for school dinners.
- The child requests to change classes, options or school.
- Reluctance or refusal to attend school.
- The child's behaviour may become immature, i.e. the child reverts to a previous behaviour such as thumb-sucking.
- The child may become withdrawn, clingy, moody, aggressive, uncooperative or uncommunicative.
- The ability to concentrate and school performance may deteriorate.
- There may be sleep or appetite problems.

INVESTIGATING BULLYING

The following steps may be taken when dealing with suspected or reported incidents:

- Immediate action by the member of staff who has concerns or who has been approached
- HOH/PSO/Tutor will interview all concerned to establish who, what, when, where and why.
- Clear account registered on SIMs
- Tutor will be kept informed and subject teachers where appropriate
- Parents/carers will be informed
- Punitive measures will be used as appropriate, in consultation with those involved

ACTIONS

The following disciplinary steps may be taken:

- Official warnings
- Detention
- Lunchtime Isolation
- Full day isolation
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

Students who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience
- Reassuring the student
- Offering continuous support
- Restoring self confidence and self esteem

Students who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what has happened
- Discovering why the student became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the student

Specimen Letter

Dear ****,

I am sorry to write to inform you that **** has been involved in the relatively long term verbal bullying of another student in Year ****. The person involved has been subjected to comment and graffiti, both of an explicit sexual nature.

I have spoken to **** at some length this morning and s/he has admitted that her/his behaviour has been hurtful to the other child and that these incidents have been ongoing for some time. S/he can offer no explanation for his behaviour, other than s/he was 'messing around' and 'just saying things'.

At the end of our discussion, we agreed that this sort of conduct is unacceptable, unpleasant and can make people very unhappy; consequently, **** has undertaken to modify her/his behaviour with immediate effect and has replaced an exercise book which s/he had badly defaced. S/he understands that the problem is not with her/him as a person, but rather, with her/his conduct and that s/he needs to moderate the way in which s/he acts.

We would hope that an incident of this kind will not be repeated and would look to your support in reinforcing the anti-bullying stance taken by school. No further action will be taken in school, on the assumption that this matter has now been successfully concluded. However, should these acts continue, further action will be taken to ensure continuity of the safe and relaxed working environment provided for all pupils in school.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at school.

Should you be reading this poster?

- If you are being bullied always tell a parent, carer or teacher.
- If you experience problems at a particular place, try and avoid going there.
- Stay with groups of friends; try to avoid being alone.
- Don't try to 'buy off' bullies with favours or money. It seldom works. Tell someone!
- Don't stay off school to try and avoid the problem. Tell someone!

Remember, you have the right to be in school without being bullied!