

LAVANT C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



Learning together in faith – always aiming for the best

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Written: March 2019
Reviewed: March 2024
Review: March 2027

A fundamental part of our Anti Bullying policy is to create a climate where everyone is valued, and where they will be supported if they need help or forgiven if they have done something wrong. At Lavant CE Primary there is a fair system of rewards and consequences (Refer to Behaviour policy). This is used consistently throughout the school. The emphasis is always on positive reinforcement of good behaviour.

Our Statement on Bullying:

At Lavant C.E. Primary School we take bullying very seriously and we always take firm action against it. We also encourage both adults and children to work against it and to report any incidents of bullying. We challenge bullying behaviour in our school because:

1. We want everyone to be safe and happy
2. Our core values include 'Love and Respect'
3. We believe that educational, physical, social and moral development can be affected by bullying
4. We want to provide a model for helpful behaviour - inaction can be seen as condoning unacceptable behaviour

What do we understand as bullying?

We define bullying as deliberate, repeated acts taken by one or more children with the clear intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally. It can be judged against STOP criteria:

Several Times On Purpose

We recognise that bullying can take different forms:-

- Verbal bullying – repeated name calling, use of threatening, racist or provocative language
- Psychological bullying – repeatedly excluding an individual from group play, spreading rumours or refusing to talk to / acknowledge another child
- Physical bullying – repeatedly hitting, kicking, grabbing another child; taking or hiding another's property
- Cyber-bullying – the use of electronic communication to send inappropriate materials, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature

We recognise that the following acts can be considered to be bullying behaviour:

- Name calling
- Malicious gossip
- Damaging or stealing property
- Coercing others into acts they do not wish to do
- Violence and assault
- Punching / kicking / biting.
- Teasing
- Intimidation
- Extortion
- Ostracising
- Damaging other peoples property

Our strategies to minimise bullying

- At our school all staff get to know children really well and are vigilant in identifying any changes in behaviour. Possible signs to be aware of are:
 - Being withdrawn
 - Deterioration of work
 - Spurious illness
 - Isolation
 - Desire to remain with adults
 - Erratic attendance
 - General unhappiness / anxiety / fear
 - Late arrivals
 - Bed wetting
 - Significant changes in normal behaviour
- Staff on playground duty look out for friendship issues / potential bullying

- The delivery of the curriculum promotes resilience and encourages children to challenge their own and other children's thinking when they know something is wrong
- Regular PSHCE time and class discussions encourage honesty and openness amongst the children
- All classes agree a class charter at the beginning of each year and outlining expected behaviours

Procedures for dealing with bullying

- It is the responsibility of all members of the school learning community to report any inappropriate behaviour they witness.
- The class teachers will (in the first instance) follow up issues involving their pupils. A record of any bullying will be kept
- Appropriate sanctions and support will be put in place (see Behaviour policy) and any children who have hurt someone else are supported/encouraged to make an apology
- If the bullying persists, we will continue to work in partnership with parents and families to put the appropriate support into place. This may take the form of missed playtimes, internal exclusion, leading to fixed term exclusion from school.
- Incidents occurring outside of school hours / off site will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis e.g. through discussions with pupils and their families, in the first instance with the class teacher, then with the Headteacher.

The role of governors

The governing body supports the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately. The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly.

A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident can ask the chair of governors to look into the matter. The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases the governing body notifies the headteacher, and asks him to conduct an investigation into the case, and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

The role of parents

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. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the headteacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed in our complaints policy.

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to treat everyone with respect.

March 2024