

The Petersfield School Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with national and local guidelines and the Every Child Matters agenda. It is based on an exemplar policy from KIDSCAPE and influenced by the following publications: Hampshire County Council “children and young peoples anti-bullying policy” and the Department for Children, Schools and Families’ “safe to learn.”

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to confide in an adult and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who suspects that bullying is happening is expected to inform the staff.

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.) Judging whether an action is defined as bullying is based on the balance of probabilities after all the evidence has been collected and examined. Each case will be individually investigated.

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

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. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Headteachers have a legal duty under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among students and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and students.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and associate staff, students and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All governors and teaching and associate staff know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported
- All students 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. Students and parents can be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported
- Bullying will not be tolerated

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Should a child exhibit these signs frequently or a combination of these signs, an Adult should investigate:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine ie arriving/leaving school early or late to avoid peers
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- 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 hungry (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 & 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

- Report bullying incidents to staff
- Incidents of bullying will be recorded by staff
- In cases of bullying, parents will be informed. Parents of the bully and the victim may be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
- Support will be provided until the bully changes their behaviour

Intervention

The member of staff responsible will gather evidence and take appropriate action. These may include:

- The bully (bullies) will acknowledge their behaviour and the consequences.
- Mediation may be considered
- Action in accordance to the behaviour policy
- In serious cases, isolation or exclusion may be considered
- If possible, the students will be reconciled

After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place. Actions may include:

- Involvement in leading PSHE activities
- Mentoring
- I:I coaching
- Group work

Prevention

We will use KIDSCAPE methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Helping children understand what bullying is
- Anti-bullying week
- writing a set of school rules
- use of assemblies
- PSHE activities
- I:I coaching
- signing a behaviour contract
- 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
- Early intervention with students showing signs of being bullies
- Supporting vulnerable students

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

Visit the Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support, links and advice.

This policy is available on request and via the TPS website