

Bousfield Primary School

Information on how Bousfield tackles bullying.

Definition of bullying

At Bousfield Primary School, we define bullying as:

- Repeated, deliberately hurtful or threatening behaviour
- Premeditated actions that usually form a pattern of behaviour rather than an isolated incident
- Involving dominance of one pupil by another, or group of others
- Remember STOP –Several Times On Purpose.

The main types of bullying are:

- Physical - pushing, hitting, kicking, pinching, any form of violence, threats
- Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing
- Emotional – tormenting, threatening, ridiculing, humiliating, excluding from groups or activities

There is no “hierarchy” of bullying – all forms of bullying are taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately.

Bullying can take place face to face, indirectly or online (cyber bullying).

Preventing Bullying

Pupils are encouraged to tell the Head Teacher, Deputy Head, Class Teachers, TAs, Office Staff, Midday Supervisors, etc. if they are being bullied or observe bullying.

Pupils and staff are alert to signs of bullying and act firmly and promptly against it.

The school promotes anti-bullying strategies through assemblies, PSHE, SEAL lessons, circle time, Friendship day and other appropriate lessons such as drama.

A safe environment is created in the playground by careful adult supervision and kindness tools such as the buddy bench and friendship caps.

Promoting an anti-bullying ethos in the school

Members of staff regularly use SEAL, PSHE lessons, assemblies or circle time to explore issues such as the causes of bullying, the effects of being bullied or being a bully, and how to stop bullying.

Pupils are given advice on what to do if they are being bullied or if they observe someone being bullied.

Cyber Bullying

What is Cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is the use of the internet, particularly applications on mobile phones and tablets, to deliberately upset someone else.

What's the difference between bullying and cyber bullying?

Bullying is not new, but some features of cyber bullying are different from other forms of bullying.

- It is 24/7 and happens at home and in personal spaces. Cyber bullying can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been regarded as safe or personal.
- The audience can be very large and reached rapidly. The difficulty in controlling electronically circulated messages means the scale and scope of cyber bullying can be greater than for other forms of bullying. Electronically forwarded content is hard to control, and the worry of content resurfacing can make it difficult for victims to move on.
- People who cyber bully may attempt to remain anonymous. This can be extremely distressing for those being bullied. The person cyber bullying may never be in the same physical space as their target.
- Some instances of online negativity can be unintentional. It can be the result of not thinking (something sent as a joke may be deeply upsetting or offensive to the recipient) or a lack of awareness of the consequences – for example saying something negative online about another pupil, or friend that they don't expect to be forwarded or viewed outside their immediate group. If this is not repeated behaviour, then it is not considered bullying.

Preventing cyber bullying

Members of staff are aware that bullying can be carried out through cyberspace. Children are encouraged to tell someone if they are being bullied in this way. Guidance is regularly given in assemblies and in Computing and PSHE lessons when the children are taught about Internet safety. Parents are reminded to keep a check on their child's use of electronic devices (see information in Curriculum – Computing and E-Safety).

Roles and Responsibilities

All members of staff (class teachers, midday supervisors, teaching assistants, office staff, support staff, etc.) have a role to play in raising awareness, being alert to and reporting bullying. The overall responsibility lies with the Head Teacher and Governing Body.

Procedure for dealing with bullying

1. Once the behaviour is identified as bullying the incident should be reported to the Head Teacher or Deputy Head.
 2. The victim and bully are interviewed separately.
 3. The victim's story is listened to and the pupil reassured that s/he has done the right thing by reporting the situation. Victims of bullying often feel powerless and vulnerable. They may end up believing that they deserve to be bullied. Everything should be done to re-establish the victim's self-esteem and self-confidence.
 4. The bully is spoken to and the reasons why s/he has bullied identified. The bully is helped to recognise his/her unsociable behaviour and is given support (from class teachers, TAs, Inclusion teachers, etc.) to change their behaviour.
 5. Serious or prolonged bullying could result in one or more of the following sanctions:
 - writing an explanation or apology for the incident
 - withdrawal of break or lunch play times
 - withholding participation in school trips or sports events that are not an essential part of the curriculum
 - fixed term exclusion
 - permanent exclusion
 6. A written record is made of every incident of bullying.
- The report indicates who was involved, where and when the incident occurred and what happened.