

We conduct an annual bullying survey to assess the nature of any bullying and to find out what the children would do if they felt they were being bullied. In June, the children in Years 1 to 6 were asked a series of questions and their responses are as follows:

What is bullying?

All the children were able to say that bullying was when people were unkind to others over a period of time (e.g. Year 1 “When someone is being mean lots of times”). The older children were able to expand this explanation further to include the fact bullying could be physical or verbal abuse (e.g. Year 6 “It can be words or hurting”).

What evidence is there of bullying?

There was little evidence of bullying at Bousfield. Squabbles and disputes between friends were mentioned but recognised that they were not bullying (e.g. Year 2 “Some friends argue, but it is fine the next day”). The older children discussed how disagreements could get out of control (e.g. Year 5 “It’s not bullying, just arguments”). Most of the disputes appeared to take place in the playground.

What to do if they saw or experienced bullying?

All the children told me that they would ask them to stop and if they didn’t would walk away and then go to tell an adult. All mentioned teachers and/ or parents. Some children mentioned they would try to help the person being bullied and/ or stand up to the bully by asking them to stop (e.g. Year 6 “I’d tell them to stop, tell them to think about what they are doing, then if they didn’t I’d tell a teacher”).

They were also confident about the steps to follow if they received an unpleasant email or text and who they should inform (e.g. Year 5 “I’d tell an adult I could trust”).

Is it easy to get away with being mean or a bully at Bousfield?

All the children agreed that it was impossible to get away with being a bully at Bousfield because the teachers were on top of every situation and deal effectively with the bullies (e.g. Year 2 “I don’t think so, the teachers teach people well, they always know”).

Rest assured the school takes bullying very seriously and acts upon incidents reported immediately.