

May 2017.

LYTHE CE VC SCHOOL
ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46

Objectives of this Policy

At Lythe School, we want to make sure everyone feels welcome, happy and safe. This policy makes sure that everyone connected with our school knows:

- What bullying is.
- How and why they should react if they suspect bullying.
- How we respond as a school
- The desired outcomes

Bullying of any kind goes against everything we state in our vision and ethos and will not be tolerated.

What is bullying?

Bullying is behaviour which deliberately makes another person feel uncomfortable, distressed or threatened.

Bullying is repeated over time.

Bullying makes those being bullied feel powerless to defend themselves.

Why are we against bullying?

Bullying Hurts!

Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.

Everybody has the right to feel happy and safe.

No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying.

Bullies need to learn different ways of behaving.

The bible states that we should treat others fairly and with respect.

Different types of bullying

Emotional (being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, threatening behaviour)

Verbal (name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing)

Physical (pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence)

Extortion (demanding money/goods with threats)

Cyber (Misuse of the internet, mobile phones or cameras to bully)

Racist (racial taunts, graffiti, gestures)

Sexual/sexist (unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments)

Homophobic/Transgender (because of, or focussing on the issue of gender/sexuality)

Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (focussing on differences and specific needs)

What are the signs and symptoms of bullying?

There are many signs or behaviours that indicate someone is being bullied. Generally speaking, parents and school staff may notice persistent signs of anxiety that are not the norm for the person concerned. They may appear as:-

- Reluctance to attend or travel to school
- Change to sleep patterns
- Change to eating habits
- Mysterious 'stomach pains'
- Unusually withdrawn or unusually aggressive
- Unexplained missing or damaged clothes or property
- Hiding or unexplained cuts or bruises
- Afraid to use the internet, email or mobile phone

What causes Bullying?

People bully for different reasons.

The reasons could be:

- to feel powerful, in control
- jealousy
- to feel good about themselves
- because they want something (attention, possession or friends)
- to look good in front of other people, feel popular, be big/clever
- because of peer pressure
- for fun
- because they are being bullied themselves
- because they see and pick on an easy target (small, won't tell anyone, lonely or different in some way)

Prevention

- We are a 'telling school' – children are regularly reminded of the importance of not keeping quiet and are able to identify a trusted adult and a way of communicating with this person. Posters showing how to contact eg Childline are displayed around school.
- 'Worry box' in each class, and use of TooToot for KS2 children, provides opportunities for information to be passed to the teacher.
- All adults are aware of their role by being approachable and taking concerns seriously.
- Bullying is regularly discussed and acknowledged through display, whole-school PHSE curriculum and assemblies. Children are made aware of different types of bullying, including cyber-bullying, and are taught strategies for dealing with any incidences.
- We actively support annual Anti Bullying weeks.

Consequences

Bullying is serious misbehaviour and is not tolerated. Incidences of bullying are dealt with promptly in line with our Behaviour Policy and may ultimately result in exclusion. Bullying is always recorded on SIMS and parents are always notified if their child is involved in bullying, either as a perpetrator or a bystander.

Support Agencies

Anti-bullying Alliance - **the alliance brings together over 60 organisations into one network with the aim of reducing bullying. Their website has a parent section with links to recommended organisations who can help with bullying issues.**

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Kidscape

www.kidscape.org.uk

02077303300

Childline – *advice and stories from children who have survived bullying*

08000 1111

Bullying on line

www.bullying.co.uk

Parentline Plus – *advice and links for parents* www.parentlineplus.org.uk

08088002222

Parents Against Bullying

01928 576152

Useful sources of information

Stonewall - the gay equality organisation founded in 1989. Founding members include Sir Ian McKellen. www.stonewall.org.uk.

Cyberbullying.org - one of the first websites set up in this area, for young people, providing advice around preventing and taking action against cyberbullying. A Canadian based site www.cyberbullying.org

Chatdanger - a website that informs about the potential dangers online (including bullying), and advice on how to stay safe while chatting www.chatdanger.com

Know IT All for Parents – a range of resources for primary and secondary schools by Childnet International. Has a sample family agreement

www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents