



SOUTH STANLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies including Keeping Children Safe in School and Peer on Peer abuse.

Statement of Principle

South Stanley Junior School seeks to provide a safe, secure and positive environment in which children and young people can develop and grow making full use of the range of facilities available to them. Children, young people and the adults involved with them are entitled to be treated with respect and understanding, and to participate in any activity free from intimidation. South Stanley Juniors seeks to ensure that those acting on behalf of the school:

Actively listen to children and young people;

Act appropriately on information received;

in order to ensure that a safe, secure, positive environment exists.

The Nature of Bullying

- Bullying is a subjective experience and can take many forms, making it extremely difficult to define. Children, young people and adults can bully. The nature of bullying is changing and evolving as technology develops.
- Bullying is harmful to all involved, not just the bullied, and can lead to self-doubt, lack of confidence, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, self-harm and sometimes even suicide.
- Bullying generally fits into one of two categories: emotionally or physically harmful behaviour. This includes: -
 - name calling;
 - taunting;
 - mocking;
 - making offensive comments;
 - kicking;
 - hitting;
 - pushing;
 - taking belongings;
 - text messaging;
 - emailing or other misuse of the internet such as social networking sites;
 - gossiping;
 - excluding people from groups;
 - spreading hurtful and false rumours.
- Definitions are different and individuals have different experiences; however, from the accounts heard from children and young people, bullying is considered to be;
 - repetitive, wilful or persistent;
 - intentionally harmful, carried out by an individual or group;
 - an imbalance of power leaving the victim feeling defenceless.

- Some individuals may feel that they are being bullied, even when there is no intention from others to cause them distress. Such perceptions of bullying should be taken seriously.
- In more serious instances where adults abuse their power over a child or a child does over another child, bullying may be viewed as child abuse and should be seen within this context.
- Bullying is always damaging to those involved. The victim, the bully and those who witness or even know about the bullying are affected.

Victims

- Victims may spend their lives in fear. They often feel isolated from their peers and may believe that it is something about themselves which has led the bully to pick on them.
- The victim's life may be characterised by unhappiness, a sense of desolation and desperation and exclusion from normal social experiences. These feelings can permeate all aspects of the victim's life and may lead to a strong desire to escape the situation by running away from home, truanting from school, and in some cases, self-harming or taking their own life.
- The victims of bullying may have reduced self-esteem and self-worth and their performance in school and other areas often deteriorates.
- Research evidence has shown that victims of bullying may be more likely to experience mental health problems.
- Victims of bullying may well become socially excluded – which is a clear risk factor to becoming engaged in crime.

Bullying Behaviour

- Bullying behaviour is not a natural part of growing up and should not be seen as such.
- Children and young people who bully are unlikely to stop while they can continue unchallenged.

Others

- Bullying behaviour does not just affect the victim and the perpetrator. Those who witness or know of bullying may live in fear that it will be their turn next.
- Bullying promotes poor models of behaviour and may encourage others to imitate these models. Children and young people who have been bullied in one setting may well become bullies in another.
- For children transferring from primary to secondary schools the fear of bullying is widespread.
- Evidence has shown that bullying is a major concern for parents and children of all ages.

Aims

- All staff, teachers, supervisory assistants, teaching assistants and governors will take bullying seriously.
- To ensure that everyone can come to school and feel safe.
- To take appropriate action when incidents of bullying are reported.
- To report the outcome of an investigation to everyone involved.
- To help provide support for all those involved.
- To promote a listening ethos in which individuals will feel safe to discuss their concerns re bullying.

South Stanley Junior School's approach to bullying

- The school aims to adopt strategies that will try to prevent bullying in all its forms.
- We will re-inforce the type of behaviour that is appropriate and acceptable e.g. through assemblies and class work.
- Actions will be taken against individuals who display bullying behaviours.
- Areas where bullying could occur will be identified. These areas will be supervised by staff at the beginning and end of break-times and monitored by the teacher on duty. These actions can only take place within the constraints of the staffing we have available.
- School routines will be constantly monitored and changed if and when needed to help prevent opportunities for bullying occurring.
- All staff will be involved in the work of preventing bullying e.g. involvement in 'Anti-bullying Week'
- We will make all the children aware that the school and all of the staff care about them and are willing to help them with problems they have.
- We will also provide playground support through structured games at lunch time with our playground leaders
- All incidents of bullying will be reported to Senior Leaders in school and recorded on 'CPoms' following investigation and where deemed appropriate
- All incidents of bullying linked to homophobia, racism, radicalism/extremism will be given careful consideration in line with school safeguarding procedures (Keeping Children Safe in School) and duties under 'Prevent' strategy. Governors will be informed.

The school's role in dealing with bullying

- Each child/parent will be given an anti-bullying book to read and discuss together.
- Bullying Surveys/pupil questionnaires will be conducted periodically.
- School will provide intervention activities if deemed appropriate.
- Every effort will be made to establish the facts (through strategies such as restorative conversations).
- Adults will listen carefully to pupil concerns about bullying.
- Appropriate action will be taken to prevent recurrence of bullying and to ensure the victim feels safe.
- Careful logs will be kept of all incidents.

Involvement of parents

- Where a child has been the victim of bullying, parents will be informed of the action taken.
- Where a child has been the perpetrator of bullying, parents will be informed of the action taken and if deemed appropriate brought into school to discuss the matter further.
- School and parents will work together wherever possible.

Review date: January 2020

Ratified by Governors: Spring Term, 2019

