



Sofrydd
Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd
Swffryd

Anti-Bullying Policy



Article 12

Your right to say what you think should happen and be listened to

Article 28

Your right to learn and go to school

Article 29

Your right to become the best you can be

Article 36

You should be protected from doing things that could harm you

On a Learning Journey Together

Principles and Values

At Sofrydd Primary School we take bullying and its impact very seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that known incidents of proven bullying will be responded to. Bullying will not be tolerated. The school will seek ways to counter the effects of bullying that may occur within school or in the local community. The ethos of our school fosters high expectations of outstanding behaviour and we will consistently challenge any behaviour that falls below this.

Sofrydd Primary School is a Rights Respecting School.

- All members of our school community are entitled to a safe, secure and caring environment. It is everybody's responsibility to ensure that this happens.
- All of us have rights - the right to feel safe, to learn and to be respected.
- All of us have responsibilities - to keep others safe, to ensure others can learn, and to respect ourselves and others

We encourage all children, parents, staff and other stakeholders to be aware of, to practice and to appreciate their own rights. We expect all to pay careful consideration to the responsibility they have to enable all others to do the same. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

The aim of this policy is to work together to ensure that our school is a safe place for children and adults to be; whether the school community is directly or indirectly affected by bullying or not.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is unacceptable behaviour used by an individual or group, usually targeted or repeated continually over time that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can be targeted in the short term or continuous over long periods of time.

Types of bullying can include:

Emotional	Persistent and constant targeted incidence of being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
Physical	Any persistent, targeted deliberate use of violence i.e pushing, kicking, biting, hitting, punching
Racial	Racial language, taunts, graffiti, gestures
Sexual	Unwanted physical contact or sexualised language
Homophobic	Because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
Direct or indirect Verbal	Persistent and constant name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber bullying	All areas of internet ,such as email and internet chat Twitter, Facebook misuse, threats by messaging and calls and the misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera and video facilities, Ipad, games consoles,

Bullying may be related to:

- Race
- Gender
- Religion
- Culture
- Additional Learning Needs or disability
- Appearance or health condition
- Home circumstances, inclusive of young carers and poverty
- Sexual orientation, sexism, or sexual bullying, homophobia

Bullying can take place in the classroom, playground, toilets, on the journey to and from school, on residential trips and cyberspace. It can take place in group activities and between families in the local community.

Perpetrators and Victims

Bullying takes place where there is an imbalance of power of one person or persons over another. This can be achieved by:

- The size of the individual,

- The strength of the individual
- The numbers or group size involved
- Anonymity – through the use of cyber bullying or using email, social networking sites, texts etc.

Children may not be aware that they are being bullied; because they may be too young or have a level of Additional Educational Needs which means that they may be unable to realise what others may be doing to them.

Conversely, children may not be aware that they are bullying others. Staff must also be aware of these children, who may be vulnerable pupils or those responding to emotional problems or mental health issues, or those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences, which may bring about a propensity to be unkind to others, or may make them more likely to fall victim to the behaviour of others. In these instances, this may need to be addressed through the school's Wellbeing approach or ALN policy and procedures and might result in a child being placed on an Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP). See Behaviour Policy.

When Behaviour is not Bullying

Children will sometimes report that someone has 'bullied' them following a one off behaviour incident. It is important for staff to help children of all ages and stages of development (and their parents), to recognise that not all incidents of misbehaviour constitute bullying, so that they can recognise the difference between someone being unkind or misbehaving and someone who is demonstrating bullying behaviour.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of persistent bullying. Bullying has the potential to damage the mental health of a victim. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Signs and Symptoms

Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begins to truant
- changes their usual routine
- 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
- persistently feels ill in the morning

- begins to do make less effort with school work than previously
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing" 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 and jumpy when a cyber-message is received
- lack of eye contact
- becoming short tempered
- change in attitude to people at home.

These signs and behaviours could obviously indicate other social, emotional and/or mental health problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Outcomes

All known/reported incidences of bullying will be investigated by the class teacher or by a senior member of staff. Parents of the perpetrator of bullying may also be questioned about the incident or about any concerns that they may be having.

The child displaying unacceptable behaviour, may be asked to genuinely apologise (as appropriate to the child's age and level of understanding). Other consequences may take place. E.g. a parent being informed about their child's behaviour and a request that the parents support the school with any sanctions that it takes (See Behaviour Policy). Wherever possible, the pupils will be reconciled.

In some cases, outside agencies may be requested to support the school or family in dealing with a child continually demonstrating unacceptable behaviour towards others. E.g. a Counsellor.

The Safeguarding Governor will be informed of any confirmed bullying incidents recorded along with incidents, sanctions and reconciliation.

Prevention

At Sofrydd Primary School we use a variety of methods to support children in preventing and understanding the consequences of bullying through for example: SEAL assemblies; PSE and Citizenship lessons; the school Vision and Assembly Themes; Anti-bullying week and E-Safety Days are but a few strategies used.

The ethos and working philosophy of Sofrydd Primary School means that all staff actively encourage children to have respect for each other and for other people's property. Staff reinforce a general message that children do not have to be friends with everyone else, but they must be respectful of everyone else's feelings and be kind to each other, regularly acknowledging and rewarding good behaviour.

Children are involved in the prevention of bullying as and when appropriate. For example, this may include activities such as:

- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures or posters about bullying;
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly;
- making up role-plays about what to do through scenarios of bullying;
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters that children who use unacceptable behaviour towards others are dealt with quickly.

If a child feels that they are being bullied then they are encouraged to speak to someone about it in any of the following ways:

- Tell a friend
- Tell a teacher or adult whom you feel you can trust
- Tell a parent or adult at home whom you feel you can trust

Recording of Bullying Incidents

When any incident of proven persistent bullying has taken place, (which is not the same as a general behaviour incident), staff must be prepared to record and report each incident. In the case of racist bullying, this must be reported to the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher or Senior Teacher. All other incidents of bullying will be discussed with all relevant staff and parents of the children involved, in order that everyone can be vigilant and that further incidents by the same child(ren) may be prevented from happening in the future. Incidents of proven bullying will be discussed with the Governing Body/Safeguarding Governor.

An example of the school recording sheet can be found below.

Record of Bullying Incident

1. Name of pupil being bullied and class group

Name _____

Class _____

2. Name(s) and class(es) of pupil(s) engaged in bullying behaviour

3. Source of bullying concern/report (tick relevant box(es))*

Pupil concerned	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Location of incidents (tick relevant box(es))*

Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Name of person(s) who reported the bullying concern

Name _____

6. Type of Bullying Behaviour (tick relevant box(es)) *

Physical Aggression	Cyber-bullying
Damage to Property	Intimidation
Isolation/Exclusion	Malicious Gossip

Date submitted to Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher/
SLT _____