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# Hollinswood Primary School & Nursery

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## Anti-Bullying Policy

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Reviewed – December 2015  
Reviewed – October 2016

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## Statement of Intent

Hollinswood Primary School and Nursery is 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. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a **SHARING** school. This means that **anyone** who knows that bullying is happening is expected to share this knowledge with the staff.

## What is bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional** (Excluding, tormenting e.g hiding books, threatening gestures)
- **Physical** (Kicking, hitting, punching, any use of violence or unwanted physical contact.)
- **Racist** (Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures)
- **Verbal** (Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, abusive comments)
- **Cyber** (All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse, mobile threats by text messaging and calls, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities.)

## Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. In Hollinswood Primary School and Nursery everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Our school has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

## 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 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.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

## Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened of walking to or from school.
- Changes their usual routine.
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Begins to truant or feels ill in the mornings.
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence.
- Starts stammering.
- Attempts to or runs away.
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares.
- Begins to do poorly in school work.
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged.
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- 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 is 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.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

## Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff.
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
6. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.

## Outcome

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
3. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
4. After the incident/ incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## **Prevention**

We will use various methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Writing a set of school rules.
- Signing a behaviour contract.
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying.
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly.
- Making up role-plays.
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters.
- Take part in e-safety/cyber bullying sessions. (See also E-Safety Policy)

## **Review**

This policy was reviewed in the Autumn Term 2015.

**To be reviewed in Autumn 2016**