



Ormskirk Church of England Primary School

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Anti-Bullying and British Values Policy January 2023

Definition

The difference between being nasty to someone and bullying is that bullying is when it is repeated over a period of time. One-off incidents are dealt with using our Behaviour Policy, which includes the use of Think Sheets.

We only have two school rules and our first school rule is 'Respect' (self, each other, property and God). We also have distinct Christian Values (see 'Our Christian School' section of the school website). However, in the world we currently live in, children and adults all see the dangers of extremism. The safety and freedom we enjoy whilst living in Britain needs to be treasured by the children. The government has asked all schools to teach and promote British Values. British Values include: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. By teaching British Values well we are also reducing the likelihood of bullying and hence why this policy covers both social aspects of school.

Impact on Teaching and Learning

The children are taught how to act when they see or experience bullying within our Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum and also when classes have Circle Time. Circle Time is when the class, or half the class sit in a circle, taking turns to share their thoughts and opinions. Circle Time can also be a very effective context in which to discuss British Values.

If bullying does happen, fast response from staff and informing the Leadership Team is most effective. To rectify the relationships children may be brought together and issues resolved.

Monitoring the Impact of Anti – Bullying and British Values

All Think Sheets are kept in an organised file by the Leadership Team. In regards to racism, homophobia and similar discrimination then children are asked to complete a Red Think Sheet with their parents at home (and bring in the completed Think Sheet the next morning). Red Think sheets for such incidents are very rare, but children can get blue Think Sheets for being unpleasant or aggressive to their peers, e.g. at playtimes. If a child has hurt someone else, the victim's name is always included on the Think Sheet. If the same name appears three times the Leadership Team will spot this and investigate, interpreting this as bullying. This may lead to further consequences for the perpetrator and even to internal or external exclusions. The playground and classroom should always be regarded and felt as a safe place to be.

Sometimes bullying can be very subtle and will not trigger Think Sheet level (see Behaviour Policy), this can include constant low level put downs between people. It is



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hard enough for adults to deal with such behaviours, so for children we need to help them learn that it is not acceptable to be regularly put down by a peer. Children must feel free to talk to staff and assured that they will be listened to. Some children find it easier to write things down or to talk first to their parents or peers. For this reason there are now 'Worry Boxes' for children dotted around school and a weekly informal 'Drop In' time for parents to meet with the Headteacher.

In addition to this, the head or deputy are frequently present during break or lunchtimes to observe and informally chat with children.

'Three of the Best'!

The three best defences against bullying are:

1. Great communication and trust between pupils, staff and parents
2. High visibility of senior staff during transitions and break and lunchtimes and staff on corridors and near toilets or places where it is hard to supervise
3. Lots going on (!)

The importance of the third strategy should not be underestimated. International research has shown that the motivation of more than half of bullying is to provide entertainment to bored pupils. If a school has less activities available at play and lunch times or lessons are dull then children are more likely to turn to bullying for entertainment. At Ormskirk C of E there are an increasingly wide range of clubs and activities available and lessons are well planned. Having a Games Club in the main hall during break and lunchtimes, football on the lower playground, trim trails on both playgrounds all helps keeps school interesting. In addition to this, there is now a member of the support staff team paid to offer a range of structured play activities on both playgrounds. During the last ten minutes of lunchtime play the infants are also given structured play activities before they go in for afternoon lessons, this reduces likelihood of bullying and helps if anyone is feeling lonely.

At Ormskirk C of E there are only few incidents of bullying or discrimination and there is ample evidence of healthy and happy relationships throughout school. However, when dealing with either bullying, extremism or discrimination we will never become complacent, but, with the help of pupils and parents we will be vigilant and pro-active.

For further information on either anti-bullying strategies or the teaching of British Values, please contact the Headteacher.

Policy written January 2023