

SPRINGHEAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Working together to achieve our best”

BULLYING

A POLICY STATEMENT

Bullying will not be tolerated at Springhead. We acknowledge that bullying behaviour may occur but strategies are in place to deal with such anti-social behaviour. All staff and pupils are aware of acceptable standards of behaviour which are written in our Code of Conduct.

Bullying is continual over a period of time. It is when a person is subjected to repeated behaviour which causes physical or emotional distress such as :

- a) physical and/or oral threatening,
- b) demanding others to do or give,
- c) name calling and teasing,
- d) exclusion,
- e) physical violence,
- f) cyber-bullying

The list is, of course, endless but we as teachers need to be constantly vigilant to ensure that such antisocial behaviour is kept to an absolute minimum and is dealt with in an appropriate manner. This vigilance must extend beyond the bounds of our classrooms and encompass the entire school community for which we have a pastoral responsibility.

In addition to the more obvious aspects of bullying which we may witness, whilst supervising children on the playground for example, we need to be on the look out for signs of more surreptitious antisocial behaviour; unexplained bruising, nervousness, fear, a sudden reluctance to come to school, falling academic standards, reports of disturbed sleep, a reluctance to mix with other children, etc. These are possible indicators that some form of bullying may be taking place.

Any complaints of bullying will be fully investigated.

Strategies for dealing with bullying

We encourage our children to be independent. We aim to give them the skills to enable them to deal with a variety of situations. “Dealing with a bully” is addressed

in PSHE and assembly time. The children are given guidelines for dealing with bullying behaviour.

- Ask the bully to stop,
- Ask them why they are doing it,
- Walk away,
- Talk to someone about it – a friend, your teacher, dinner lady,
- Keep telling people
- You are never alone with any problem.

These strategies are reinforced in lessons and assemblies.

All cases of bullying must be reported to the headteacher (deputy head in headteacher's absence). Bullying is a serious offence. Should a child disclose to a member of staff that he/she is being bullied then the following will apply :

1. Headteacher to be informed,
2. Headteacher discusses situation with child to reassure and confirm facts,
3. Headteacher talks to bully to – make aware of implications,
school's stance on bullying,
4. Headteacher will inform parents of both bully and bullied and meet with both,
5. Headteacher will encourage the two children to discuss the situation giving support/guidance for as long as is necessary,
6. A log of all procedures will be kept,
7. Report will be given to governors.