



# Tarvin Primary School

## Anti Bullying Policy

### Statement of Intent

At Tarvin Primary School, we are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment.

**Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our school.**

We take all incidents of bullying seriously. Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect and pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving.

At Tarvin Primary School, we acknowledge that bullying does happen from time to time – indeed, it would be unrealistic to claim that it does not. When bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively in accordance with our anti-bullying policy.

### Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to try to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. The implementation of this policy will create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in.

All members of the school have a responsibility to recognise bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy. This will happen in the following ways:

- The school will meet the legal requirement for all schools to have an anti-bullying policy in place.
- The school will work closely with other professional agencies to ensure that children stay safe as stated in the 1989 Children's Act, the 2001 SEN & Disability Act, The Government Green Paper 'Every Child Matters' 2003, the Children Act 2004 and DCSF Safeguarding Children 2006.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents/guardians will have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying and will consistently and swiftly follow it when bullying is reported.
- Whole school initiatives (staff training, assemblies etc) and proactive teaching strategies (PHSE lessons, My Happy Mind and circle time) will be used throughout the school to reduce the opportunities for bullying to occur.
- A positive, caring ethos will be created within the school environment where everyone can work, play and express themselves, free from the fear of being bullied.

## **What is bullying?**

### **Most bullying has three common characteristics:**

- deliberately hurtful behaviour
- behaviour repeated, often over a period of time
- it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves

### **Bullying usually falls into three main categories:**

- physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal – name calling, insulting, racist remarks
- indirect – spreading nasty stories or excluding from a social group

### **Bullying can be:**

- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures) ridicule, humiliation
- Verbal – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, biting spitting or any other forms of violence including taking someone's property.
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, making fun of culture and religion
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive or sexist comments
- Homophobic – because of/or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Online – Cyber bullying – setting up of hate websites, abuse via mobile phones
- Any unfavourable or negative comments, gestures or actions made to someone relating to their disability or special needs.

### **Bullying is not:**

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone else.

It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise, it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all must learn with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

### **Where does bullying happen:**

It can happen anywhere – in the classroom, corridor, toilets, dining hall and in the playground. It may happen on the way to and from school. In such cases, the Headteacher is empowered by law to deal with such incidents but must do so in accordance with the school's policy.

### **Advice for pupils:**

#### **When you are being bullied:**

- get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- tell an adult what has happened straight away

#### **After you have been bullied:**

- tell a teacher or another adult – If you are scared to tell a teacher or adult, ask a friend to go with you
- be confident and reassured that the teacher or adult will not tell the bully what you have told them
- don't blame yourself for what has happened, and no one will think that you are telling tales.
- tell your family

#### **When talking about the bullying be clear about:**

- what has happened to you and how often it has happened
- who was involved, who saw what happened, where it happened and what has been done so far?

### **Advice for Staff**

- listen and respond sensitively to what the child has to say
- establish full details from all parties individually
- take appropriate action

#### **Action to be taken**

These incidents will be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy in the absence of the Headteacher

When appropriate, parents will be notified and if necessary, asked into school to discuss the situation

Steps will be taken to protect the victims of bullying and help to develop strategies to avoid situations in which they are bullied.

Steps will be taken to modify the behaviour of the bully – via behaviour programme, working with parents and the bully to enhance their self image and behaviour.

#### **Follow Up:**

If, after a formal interview with the Headteacher the child acting as a bully does not respond, the following steps will be taken:

- official letter informing parents of the child's continued inappropriate behaviour
- formal interview with parents and adoption of a behaviour plan
- formal exclusion may be considered for up to 5 days per term
- permanent exclusion

Written notification will accompany each stage.

## **Advice for Parents**

### **If your child is bullying other children:**

- Many children may be involved in bullying other pupils at some time or other
- Often parents are not aware that their child is involved in bullying

### **Children sometimes bully because:**

- they do not know that it is wrong
- they are copying older brothers and sisters
- they haven't learned other better ways of mixing with their school friends
- their friends encourage them to bully
- they may be going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings

### **To stop your child from bullying**

- talk with the child, explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes others unhappy
- discourage other members of the family from aggressive or bullying behaviour
- show your child that they can join in with others without bullying
- Discuss the situation with your child's teacher
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement and regularly check how things are going at school.

### **If your child has been bullied**

- talk calmly to them about their experience, make a note of the details
- reassure your child that they have done the right thing by talking to an adult and explain that they need to report all incidents immediately
- make an appointment to see the class or Headteacher to discuss your concerns.

### **Discussing the bullying with teachers etc**

- remain calm and bear in mind that the teacher may not be aware that your child is being bullied. Be specific with details.
- make a note of what action is to be taken and ask if there is anything that you can do to help.
- keep in touch with the school and let them know how things are progressing.