ST JOHN'S HIGHBURY VALE C OF E SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

1. Introduction

1.1. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environemt for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all pupils should feel able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.
We are a 'Telling School'. **This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell 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 – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threating gestures)
  - Physical – Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
  - Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
  - Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
  - Homophobic – because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
  - Verbal – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
  - Cyber – All areas of internet, such as email or internet chat room misuse
  - Mobile devices – threats by text messaging & calls
  - Misuse of technology – cameras, video, etc.

- **Why is it important to respond to bullying?**
  Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

All staff have a responsibility to record all incidences of bullying on the school anti-bullying form and report to a senior member of staff.

2.1 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 and from school
- Doesn't want to go on the school or public bus
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn or anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering

- Threatens or attempts suicide or running away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or belongings damanged
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has unexpected cuts and bruising
- 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 mobiles or the internet
- Is nervous & jumpy around technology

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

2.2 Anti-bullying procedures

- All children continually reminded to report bullying incidents to staff
- When a member of staff receives a report about an instance of bullying he/she should find out as much as possible and try and resolve the situation by helping the perpetrator to see why his/her behaviour was wrong and by trying to ensure the victim receives and apology
- The incident will be recorded by the member of staff using the school Anti-Bullying Form – once this form is completed it will be passed onto a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will decide on what steps will need to be taken next. (All forms will be kept on file in the bullying incidents folder).

3. Cyber bullying

- Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. Bullying is not new, but some features of cyberbullying are different from other forms of bullying: Cyberbullying can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been regarded as safe or personal.
- All bullying incidents should be properly recorded and investigated. Cyberbullying can be a very serious matter and can constitute a criminal offence. In UK law, there are criminal laws that can apply in terms of harassment or threatening and menacing communications.
- If there is a suspected case of cyber bullying we advise pupils and staff to try and keep a record of the bullying as evidence. It can be useful to show parents, teachers, pastoral care staff and the police, if necessary, what has happened.
- We take steps to identify the bully, including looking at the school systems, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- The police will need to be involved to enable the service provider to look into the data of another user.

In serious or repeated cases:

- Parents informed – victim and perpetrator
- Meeting to discuss the problem
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted

Appendix A - Bullying Incident form

Safeguarding – Bullying Incident Form

Perpetrator Name / Class:		Witnesses:	
First Adult informed:			
Incident Type: (See List)		Theme Bullying:	

Description of Incident/s
Please continue on back of sheet PTO ☐
Actions to be taken:

Follow up with the victim: ☐	Apology given:	Yes / No	Apology accepted:	Yes / No	