

Furze Platt Senior School



Anti-Bullying Policy

Definition of Bullying:

'Behaviour which can be defined as the repeated attack, physical, psychological, social or verbal, by those in a position of power, which is formally or situation defined, on those who are powerless to resist, with the intention of causing distress for their own gain or gratification'.

There are different sorts of bullying, but the three main types are:

PHYSICAL: Hitting, kicking, taking or hiding belongings including money

VERBAL: Name-calling, teasing, insulting, writing unkind notes.

INDIRECT: Spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones.

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere, in which students and parents feel they can report incidents of bullying confident that they will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Students are expected to report bullying incidents to a member of staff or senior student and parents should let the school know straight away if they think that their child is being bullied.

Policy aims:

1. To enable students to understand clearly what constitutes bullying through the curriculum and day to day life at school raising awareness.
2. To enable students to understand that bullying, whether it is physical, verbal or indirect, will not be tolerated by the whole school community.
3. To enable parents to feel confident that bullying will be firmly dealt with by the school.
4. To promote a non-violent ethos in the school.
5. To raise staff awareness of the presence of bullying.
6. To establish guidelines for action where bullying is suspected.

Procedures:

Raising awareness of bullying

- Through the curriculum, Citizenship lessons, assemblies and work with tutors.
- Staff training.
- Peer training and mentoring.

Following a report of bullying

- If staff think that bullying is happening, they should allow the victim to talk – reassuring the student that the school will deal with it sensitively but firmly.
- The member of staff or senior student must refer any incidents of bullying to the Head of House in writing, e.g. by e-mail or incident forms.
- Head of House decides further action.
 - Talks with victim.
 - Asks victim to write their version of events.
 - Calms feeling.
 - Talks with alleged bully.
 - Informs parents of both parties.
 - Tries to resolve the problem through counselling.
 - If allegation proven and serious, Head of House may take disciplinary action.
 - Can provide support for the victim via their tutor, peer mentoring or external agencies.
 - Head of House continues to monitor the situation checking it is not reoccurring.
 - Head of House records incident and action taken.

Guidance on advice to victim and protagonist.

- To the victim
- Revenge is not appropriate.
 - Involving other pupils/friends may not help.
 - Report future fears/incidents to an appropriate adult or senior student.
 - Reconciliation or avoidance should be considered.
- To the protagonist
- Behaviour is unacceptable.
 - Is designed to cause distress.
 - Serious sanctions may follow.
 - Reconciliation or avoidance should be considered.
- To the parents
- Do keep the school and staff informed by asking their child to tell the teacher or inform the school as soon as possible.
 - Reassure that the school does its best to resolve all cases.
 - Parents who are made aware that their child is bullying other children are asked to explain that what he/she is doing is wrong and makes other children unhappy.

Sanctions

- Parents informed.
- Student withdrawn from social contact at lunch/break.
- Detention.
- Exclusion from lessons.
- Internal exclusion.
- Possibility of permanent exclusion.
- Restorative Justice.

The school will do all it can to maintain counselling even when sanctions have been applied.