



VICTORY HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction:

Bullying is any behaviour which hurts, injures, threatens or frightens. It takes many forms and includes:

- Physical – hitting, punching, pushing, scratching, biting, spitting, tripping.
- Verbal – name calling, teasing, putdowns, sarcasm, insulting.
- Emotional – excluding, tormenting.
- Racial – racial taunts, name calling, gestures.
- Religious – taunts, name calling.
- Textual – passing notes, phone messages, social media.
- Social – ignoring, excluding, mimicking, spreading rumours, intimidation, stealing.

Victory Heights Primary School promotes a culture in which children feel valued, safe, respected and happy. Bullying may be defined as the abuse of power, uninvited aggression or behaviour which offends.

Aims:

Victory Heights Primary School aims to create an environment where every child has a sense of involvement and in which he or she can develop as a young person with integrity, social conscience and courage. This is in keeping with our core values to nurture, challenge and excel.

It is our aim:

- to ensure that all pupils, staff and parents are aware of the definition of bullying and the effect it has on its victims.
- to ensure that the proper and correct reporting and referral procedures are in place.
- to create a school community where bullying in any form is recognized as unacceptable.

Signs of bullying:

Teachers, parents or pupils who observe a radical change in a child's behavior should discuss this with them as such changes may be symptomatic of bullying. Behaviours that might be observed are:

- an unwillingness or refusal to go to school.
- complaints of feeling ill on school mornings.
- a decline in the quality of school work.
- becoming withdrawn and lacking confidence.
- crying at night and having nightmares.
- requests for money or starting to steal.



- a reluctance to talk about what is wrong.
- unexplained bruises, cuts or scratches.
- increasing aggression.
- regression to bed wetting.
- unexplained loss of appetite.

Who can you turn to if you are being bullied?

- Your parents.
- Close friends.
- Class teacher or Teaching and Learning Assistant.
- Head of Year or School Principal.
- Any teacher with whom you feel you have a relationship of trust.
- The School Nurse.
- Administration Staff.

What can you yourself do if you are being bullied?

- Tell the bully to stop.
- Seek help, talk to somebody you can trust.
- Report it. Victory Heights Primary School does not tolerate bullying. Trust the school to deal with it in the appropriate manner.

What should you do if you know someone else is being bullied?

- Care enough to take action, whether you are personally involved or not.
- Intervene at an early stage so that the problem is dealt with before it gets out of hand.
- Have the courage to report it.

Pupil Responsibilities:

- Respect yourself and others.
- Learn to be tolerant, broad minded and rejoice in individual differences
- Do not follow friends when you do not agree with what they are doing.
- Speak out against bullying and report it when you see it.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Model anti – bullying attitudes and behaviour.
- Support the anti – bullying policy through teaching and the PSHE programme.
- Listen and respond to reports of bullying and provide support and refer as necessary.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Support the values of tolerance and respect in the home.
- Encourage your child to exercise these values in all contexts including at school.
- Report bullying and encourage your child to do so.
- Provide support and encourage your child to seek help.



- Work with the school to resolve bullying issues.

School Responsibilities:

- Provide access to our anti – bullying policy throughout the school community.
- Involve staff, parents and pupils in supporting the procedures instigated across the school.
- Ensure staff work within the guidelines of the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Provide support and guidance to targets of bullying.
- Provide intervention and support for individuals who bully others.
- Use teaching methods and the PHSE Curriculum to discuss all aspects of bullying and the appropriate way to behave towards and respect each other.

Action to be taken when bullying is suspected:

Warning

If a pupil is beginning to behave in a manner which could develop into or be interpreted as bullying, wherever possible a warning will be given. In this way it is hoped that many potentially serious situations will never materialize. However, the warning stage is at the discretion of the school and a pupil involved in a serious instance of bullying will bypass this stage and be placed on Stage 1.

Stage 1

Where, after due investigation, the school is satisfied that bullying has occurred, it will be explained to the bully why his/her behaviour is unacceptable, and positive strategies will be pursued to raise his/her self-esteem as well as to protect the victim. The bully's parents will be informed. It is possible that after a period of time during which a marked improvement can be seen in the pupils behaviour the student will be removed from Stage 1. However this is entirely at the discretion of the school, and any pupil previously on Stage 1 who is involved in further instances of bullying will be placed directly onto Stage 2.

Stage 2

If the bullying continues, arrangements will be made to minimize contact between bully and victim. The bully's parents will be called into school by the Principal to discuss the situation. The bully will sign a statement promising that the bullying will not be repeated. It will not be possible to be removed from Stage 2 or any subsequent stage.

It is envisaged that in most circumstances these two stages will be sufficient.

Stage 3

Where there is no improvement in the bullying, the bully will be on behavioural probation and possible suspension.

Stage 4

As a last resort, and when it is clear that the bully consistently endangers the welfare of other children in the school, he or she will be permanently excluded from Victory Heights Primary School.

