ROKESLY INFANTS SCHOOL

Anti-bullying Policy

Ratified: November 2024

Review Date: November 2026

Statement of intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be 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 the staff. We use a confidential **'TALK BOX'** system to support children.

What is Bullying?

We define bullying in our Positive Behaviour Policy as '**deliberate and persistent intimidation of another person**'. Bullying can be:

- Emotional — being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical — pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence or unwanted physical contact
- Racist — racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual — unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic — because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal — name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber — all areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse
  mobile threats by text messaging & calls
  misuse of associated technology i.e. camera & video facilities

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.
Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, children, parents and carers should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- **Racist/sexist behaviour/negative attitude to disability will not be tolerated – see Response to racist incidents appendix**
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

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:

- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)

- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs 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 books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff.
2. We will ensure that the victim is always supported.
3. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff, using pro-forma and given to the head teacher.
4. In serious cases parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
   We will work on helping the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologise.
2. Sanctions will be applied (in line with our behaviour policy).
3. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
4. The parent/s of the bully will be asked to discuss the behaviour with him/her.
5. In serious cases exclusion may be considered.
6. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Prevention

We use PSHE sessions to help children to prevent bullying.

As and when appropriate activities may include:

- writing a set of school rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) www.ace-ed.org.uk Advice(Mon-Fri 10-5) **0300 0115 142**

KIDSCAPE www.kidscape.org.uk Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri 10-4)
020 7823 5430
Family Lives http://www.familylives.org.uk Helpline (9am-9pm)
0808 800 2222
Bullying Online www.bullying.co.uk

Response to racist incidents: Please see anti-racism policy