



## PORTREATH SCHOOL Anti-Bullying Policy

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This Policy needs was reviewed in Jan 2018 and is due for a full review Sept 2019

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### PORTREATH C.P. School

#### Policy on Anti-Bullying

Portreath School always treats its children as unique individuals and it seeks to address the wholeness of each child in relation to their intellectual, physical, spiritual, social and moral development.

We recognise that no school can state *'there is no bullying here'* and at Portreath school we do recognise that bullying can occur. It can be harmful, both physically and emotionally, for the victim. It can also be a sign that the child carrying out the bullying may have underlying issues that need to be addressed. Whenever the opportunity arises it must be made very clear that we will not tolerate bullying at our school. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so that they can grow and learn in a relaxed and safe environment.

The purpose of this policy is to enable adults in the school to recognise bullying, when it takes place, and to deal with it effectively.

#### What is bullying ?

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour. It is usually repeated, often over a period of time and when it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

We believe that there are a number of types of bullying.

**Physical:** hitting, punching, pinching, kicking or taking someone's belongings.

**Verbal:** name-calling, insulting, indirect bullying through spreading stories about someone, threats and making fun of someone.

**Emotional:** excluding someone from a social group, tormenting, ridiculing or humiliating someone.

**Racist:** racial taunts, gestures, making fun of someone's culture or religion.

**Sexual:** unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive or sexist comments.

**Cyber:** setting up hate websites, offensive emails and texts.

#### Bullying is not:

It is important to understand that bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, argument or when an occasional 'joke' is played on someone. Children do sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems like this arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of a child's development to learn how to deal with

friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

**It is bullying** if it is done repeatedly and on purpose.

### **Why do we tackle bullying?**

We tackle bullying as an issue because we are an effective, caring school and we believe that:

- . bullying makes people unhappy and can lead to low self-esteem.
- . pupils who are being bullied are unlikely to concentrate fully on their learning.
- . some pupils avoid bullying by not attending school.
- . pupils who observe unchallenged bullying behaviour may copy this anti-social behaviour.
- . we wish to build the self-esteem of all our pupils but especially of bullies and their victims.

### **Role of parents**

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy. We ask parents to look out for unusual behaviour in their child. We ask that parents take an active role in their child's education and ask about their day and who they spent their time with. If parents feel their child may be experiencing difficulties with bullying behaviour we ask them to let the school know. Enquiries will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.

If parents feel a child has bullied your child we ask that parents do not approach that child in the playground or on their way home. Parents are asked to inform the school straightaway. It is very important that parents do not advise their child to fight back or to copy the bully's behaviour. This will only make any situation worse. Parents are asked to tell their child that it is not their fault they are being bullied and should reinforce the school's policy on bullying and ensure their child is not afraid to ask for help. If parents know their child is involved in bullying, please talk to them about it and tell the school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately.

### **Procedures for reporting and responding to bullying incidents**

Bullying behaviour is unacceptable to the school. Allegations and incidents of bullying will be taken seriously at our school by all staff and will be dealt with impartially and promptly. All those involved will have an opportunity to be heard. Staff will support all children whilst the allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved. The following procedures are to be followed:

Incidents of reported bullying need to be reported to the Assistant Headteacher and Headteacher.

Discussion about the bullying incident will take place with the pupils involved. This may involve the class teacher, Teaching Assistant, Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher and will involve all the children involved either separately, or in a group, which ever is more appropriate. If the incident is not too serious `The Shared Problem' approach may be used. This is also known as the 'No Blame' approach. The problem will be identified and possible solutions suggested.

Staff will attempt to adopt a problem solving approach through circle time/and, or drama activities, which will move the children on from having to justify their behaviour. Appropriate action will be taken to end the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place and appropriate sanctions applied i.e . loss of privileges, spending playtime/lunchtime with an adult,

being withdrawn from class, being withdrawn from participation in a school visit, club or event not essential to the curriculum. If possible the pupils will be reconciled.

An attempt will be made and support given to help the bully (bullies) understand and change his/her (their) behaviour.

If the bullying continues (or in more serious cases of bullying) parents will be formally invited into the school to discuss the problem. In some cases mediated meetings, with both parents and pupils present, may be used to resolve the issues.

In serious cases an incident will be recorded and kept on file. This record will enable the school to follow up incidents and record progress. It will state:

- who was involved
- where and when it happened
- what happened
- what action was taken
- whether and how it was followed up

In repeated or serious cases the school may enforce the following sanctions: lunch time exclusion, fixed term exclusion, permanent exclusion.

We take preventative steps to prevent and reduce bullying. Whole school initiatives and pro-active teaching strategies are used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of preventing and reducing bullying.

The school operates a positive discipline policy which aims to give opportunities for the pupils to achieve praise and recognition for co-operative behaviour.

Assemblies are utilised to consider the issues surrounding bullying such as friendship, conflict, power and trust.

Role play and drama activities are also used.

Bullying is also addressed through the school's Personal, Social, and Health Education Programme which incorporates the Social and Emotional Learning (SEAL) curriculum, as well as RTime (Relationships To Improve Education). Within the Personal, Social and Health education programme circle time is used in each class on a regular basis to raise self esteem and to let the children discuss issues involved in bullying.

The whole school community is encouraged to model appropriate behaviour towards one another

### **Monitoring the policy**

Scrutiny of recorded incidents may show whether bullying is becoming less frequent or changing in nature.

Visiting Governors may, through talking to children and staff on termly visits, help to evaluate the success of this policy.

A pupil questionnaire will be carried out annually and a 'happy school' questionnaire will be carried out biannually.

Feedback will also be taken from the school council on the success of measures taken in conjunction with this policy.

This policy will be a staff meeting agenda item each year.