

Scarning VC Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Adopted by FGB: 10.3.26
(with yellow wording to be considered at next governor meeting)

Review Date: Spring Term 2027

Aim

The aim of our anti-bullying policy is to ensure that everyone can learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

Rationale

Bullying in any form, by anyone, will not be tolerated at Scarning VC Primary School. We do not accept any form of behaviour which hurts, threatens or frightens any member of the school community.

Most bullies continue bullying because their victims are too frightened to tell anyone, because they don't feel anyone will listen.

This means that if a child is being bullied we want him/her to talk to someone. This could mean talking to a friend, teacher or parent. We will also aim to empower children to tell the bully themselves that this behaviour is upsetting them and must stop.

What is bullying?

Bullying involves a deliberately harmful act that is repeated over time. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (for example, being ignored or not spoken to). Bullying is not simply two children falling out with each other.

'Underlying most bullying behaviour is an abuse of power and a desire to intimidate and dominate'. (Sharp and Smith 1994)

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional -** being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- **Physical -** pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Racial** - taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual** - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- **Homophobic** - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- **Discriminatory** – towards member of society with difference e.g. people with disabilities or testing circumstances
- **Verbal** - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- **Online, Social Media** - Mobile threats by text messaging & calls, email & Social Media misuse.

Scarning Primary uses the **STOP!** phrase for the whole school definition of bullying...

Several **T**imes **O**n **P**urpose!

It is usually not bullying when children have a one-off disagreement which is immediately resolved with (or without) adult intervention. However, if a child

feels they are being bullied this must be dealt with as the perception of bullying can be as distressing as actual bullying.

Possible Warning Signs

Pupils may be:

- Scared to walk to and from school
- Refuse to go to school
- Concentrate less in class
- Be reluctant to go out to play
- Cling to adults in the playground
- Begin hurting others for no apparent reason
- Have unexplained injuries
- Become withdrawn and distressed
- Refuse to say what the problem is
- Have possessions go missing regularly
- Have nightmares
- Give unlikely excuses to explain any of the above
- Bed wetting

Prevention of bullying

We encourage a positive approach to the prevention of bullying. We will be…

- Providing a good role model; showing care, politeness, respect and honesty.
- Teaching and promoting empathy.
- Promoting self-esteem, security, identity, belonging, purpose and competence.
- Helping children to develop positive strategies and assertiveness.
- Raising awareness of how good it feels to care for others and how good it feels to be cared about.
- Rewarding positive behaviour.
- Exploring feelings through role play and viewing bullying situations from both sides.
- Allowing children to hear what other people feel and experience (e.g. our teaching of our school ‘Values’).
- Discussing friendships - who are our friends and why do we choose them?
- Encouraging children to recognise their own qualities and help them identify good qualities in others.
- Teaching children to listen, and listen to them attentively.
- Helping children to be patient and to be reflective.
- Encouraging children to look after their own property and to respect property of others.

- Helping children to give and receive praise.
- Teaching children to be helpful.
- Encouraging peer support for all pupils.
- Encouraging pupils to seek support from adults in school.
- Support schemes such as “Anti-Bullying Week”

Procedures to follow if an incident of suspected bullying is reported

All claims of bullying should be taken seriously and investigated promptly. If a suspected incident of bullying is reported to a member of staff other than the class teacher, the class teacher should be informed.

We recognise the rise of online and social media bullying. This rarely takes place within the school day, but the effects can have significant consequences for our children.

We will take any reports of online or social media bullying very seriously, and understand our role to alert parents when such events are reported to us.

The member of staff should speak to the child/children involved. This may be on an individual or group basis depending on the teacher’s/member of staff’s interpretation of the incident. The member of staff involved should try to ascertain the true details by:

- taking the incident seriously
- keeping calm – never over-react but act with calmness and fairness, even while showing displeasure with the child’s/children’s behaviour
- listening to both/all sides of the reported incident
- reassuring the victim
- make sure that all parties involved understand what behaviour/action is being disapproved of and why
- being seen to treat all parties fairly and with a consistent approach
- trying to decide on a positive course of action for all parties and for all parties to agree/understand the reasons behind the agreed action to prevent the reoccurrence of unwanted incidents
- The above noted on CPOMS

All suspected and actual incidents of bullying must be reported to the headteacher and a ‘Behaviour: potentially 'bullying' type behaviour’ or ‘‘Anti-Bullying Log Entry’ tag will be added to the CPOMS entry if it has not already been added. This will then be used to log the issue.

A live log of current Bullying issues is reviewed by DSLs regularly. Once there has been no updates of concern on the case for two whole terms then the case will be removed from the live log. The historic log will of course remain on CPOMS and easily accessed.

When incidents have been clearly identified as bullying then parents of both parties should normally be informed* and involved with the agreed course of action.

It is important for school and home to work together as a team and be pro-active in dealing with the issue in a consistent manner. By working together bullying behaviour can be eradicated.

**The default response should be that parents are informed as soon as possible.*

Please see Behaviour Policy for further details on how we endeavour to create an environment where bullying does not flourish, as well as the possible consequences for poor behaviour (including bullying). Our E-Safety Policy also provides guidance for relevant to this policy.