

This guidance, produced by *Kidscape*, is provided so that:

- all governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is
- all governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents know what they should do if bullying arises

Bullying, as identified by *Kidscape*, is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting or causing distress to another person. It can be:

- emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- 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 and chat-room misuse; mobile threats by text messaging and calls; misuse of associated technology (camera, video. etc)

No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and if it does occur, all pupils need to:

- be able to tell – either for themselves or on behalf of others
- be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported
- know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively
- understand that bullies can and must learn different ways of behaving

Possible indicators of bullying:

- is frightened of walking to or from school, or begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school, feels ill in the morning or begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering, cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- becomes aggressive, bullying other children or siblings, is disruptive or unreasonable
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn, books or possessions damaged or 'missing'
- asks for money, starts stealing money or comes home hungry
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

How to tackle bullying

- Children report incidents to any of parents, peer or other (mentor) pupils, TAs or teachers
- this information is passed to the headteacher
- in cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by the headteacher
- parents need to report any bullying of which they become aware to the class teacher or headteacher
- where parents are unaware, they are informed and asked to come in to discuss the problem
- if necessary and appropriate, police are consulted
- any bullying behaviour or threats of bullying are investigated, challenged and pursued
- the bullying is stopped quickly and attempts made to help the bully (bullies) change behaviour
- if possible pupils are reconciled
- bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise
- in serious cases, suspension or even exclusion is considered as appropriate
- follow up includes monitoring to ensure repeated bullying does not take place

Help Organisations:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)

0808 800 5793

Children's Legal Centre

0845 345 4345

Kidscape Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10:00-16:00)

0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus

0808 800 2222

Youth Access

020 8772 9900

Bullying Online

www.bullying.co.uk