

## WHAT DO WE DO IF A CHILD SAYS THEY ARE BEING BULLIED?

Firstly, we **LISTEN** - We give the child an immediate, sensitive and supportive response to the disclosure. We take their complaint seriously and allow them a full expression of feelings. We record what is said with as much detail as possible and pass this record to the senior leadership team (SLT).

They will:

1. **Meet with the victim to clarify what has been happening.**
2. **Obtain permission from the victim to approach the perpetrators/bystanders** to get their side of the story. Be aware that this might be an extremely frightening thought for a child who is experiencing bullying. However, the perpetrators/bystanders need to understand what they are doing wrong in order for it to stop, so the child is encouraged to be brave and to let us talk to the perpetrator. If the child does not consent to this, we respect their wishes.
3. **Complete the Initial Investigation Form 1 (Appendix 1) and upload to CPOMS to ensure the entire senior leadership team and the headteacher are aware.**
4. **Monitor the situation for a fixed period** – e.g. a week. This may include close monitoring of the children involved especially at playtimes and lunchtimes. Other staff may be involved in monitoring.
5. Parents and carers of the victim are also made aware at this point that the school is monitoring a situation.
6. **If there is confirmed evidence of bullying over time, the SLT will then complete the Bullying Report and Monitoring Form 2 (Appendix 2) and pass to school office.**
7. This will clearly record the type of bullying, those involved and what actions / support is in place to ensure bullying behaviour is addressed within a specified review period.
8. **If no improvement is seen after the review period, more severe sanctions will be applied as appropriate.**

Thank you for reading this booklet.

We hope it has explained our policy

and practice clearly.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE LONGMEADOW A BULLYING-FREE ZONE!**



**Headteacher: Mrs E Howley**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs S McDermott**

## **ANTI-BULLYING** **INFORMATION**



Information for Parents

We teach children to be precise in the language they use when reporting incidents so that adults can respond to them appropriately: *e.g. not saying 'she beat me up' – when actually it was a minor push.*

Parents should bear this in mind when listening to their children. It is the most upsetting thing to think that your child might be experiencing something that is making them unhappy – but it is only true bullying if it is **repeated over time**.

We also try to teach children about the difference between: **rude** – when someone says something unkind to you; **mean** – when someone says or does something intentionally hurtful, once or twice and **bullying** – when someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it, even when you tell them to stop or show them you're upset. This message is displayed in every classroom and used to unpick different behaviours with children by staff.

#### **TYPES OF BULLYING**

We classify bullying under three main headings: PHYSICAL, VERBAL and INDIRECT.

Further information outlining these in more detail can be found in our anti-bullying policy.

#### **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

Children and adults affected by bullying may show changes in behaviour, becoming less confident, depressed, stressed, quiet and having physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach aches. There are a number of other signs that can relate to bullying.

**Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be bullying others, should contact their child's class teacher immediately.**

#### **At Longmeadow, we believe:**

Everybody has the right to feel safe at school and has the responsibility to keep others safe.

Feelings are *feelings*; behaviour is chosen.

Children who feel good about themselves behave better, work harder, learn more and form better relationships.

#### **OUR AIMS:**

- To keep school a safe place for all, including adults and children in the school.
- To ensure all pupils achieve the level of success and self-respect which they deserve.
- To provide an environment in which bullying is constantly challenged.
- To provide a curriculum which teaches about 'protective behaviours'
- To give children the knowledge that bullying can and must be eradicated.
- To teach children that they have a responsibility, as citizens of our society, to eradicate bullying.

#### **DEFINITION**

The DfE definition of bullying is: **'Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group, either physically or emotionally'**. We will use this definition when investigating and responding to allegations of bullying.

Importantly, the school works hard to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and simple everyday 'falling out' or one-off playground incidents.