

Dunclug Primary School

Policy
For
Anti-Bullying

DUNCLUG PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Bullying can range from ostracising, name calling, teasing, threats and extortion, through to physical assault on persons and/or on their property. It can be an unresolved frightening incident which casts a shadow over a child's life, or a series of such incidents.

At our school we aim to create a happy, caring, learning environment. If we wish to achieve this, bullying, either physical, verbal or indirect, cannot be tolerated. It is everyone's responsibility to aim to prevent occurrences of bullying and to deal with any incidents quickly and effectively.

Bullying can be brought to the attention of staff either by the victim(s), their friend(s), their parent(s) or other interested people.

STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH BULLYING

The following is a staged list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a listening approach, firstly to the victim and then to the bully.

- Discussion with the victim. This requires patience and understanding. **Remember** – Listen, Believe, Act.
- Identify the bully/bullies individually. Confront them with details and ask them to tell the truth about the situation/incident. Make it clear that bullying is not acceptable at this school.
- If they own up, follow the procedures outlined below and in the Discipline Policy.
- If they do not own up, investigate further. If it is clear they are lying, continue with the procedure. Children often own up if presented with all the facts.
- If the bullying is perceived as serious, separate discussions with the parents of the bully and victim are instigated.
- Sanctions for the bully may include withdrawal from favoured activities, loss of playtimes, exclusion from school during lunchtimes, exclusion from school.
- Continue monitoring the situation by observing closely in the classroom or at playtimes and having discussion with the victim to ensure there is no repetition.
- As the behaviour of the bully (hopefully) improves, then favoured activities etc, can be reinstated, and the child should be praised for good behaviour. This will rebuild the child's self-esteem, which may have been damaged after being caught bullying, or could have been low anyway, hence the bullying.

Several school assemblies throughout the year will have a focus of anti-bullying. These will be followed by discussion and other work in the classrooms.