

Durham County Council

# THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Anti Bullying Policy

# Thornhill Primary School

## Anti Bullying Policy

### AIMS

- To establish and maintain a school community in which all members feel valued as individuals.

### OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that all members of our school community feel safe, secure, happy and confident that they can be themselves;
- To help all members of our school community grow and develop to their full potential;
- To ensure that no individual or group becomes involved in bullying behaviour, (including cyber bullying, texting and homophobic bullying.)
- To ensure that no individual or group suffers as a victim of bullying behaviour;
- To establish systems of communication and strategies to enable the development of a positive culture and help to eliminate bullying attitudes and behaviours whenever they arise.

## DEFINITION

Bullying is a subjective experience that can take many forms, however it can be defined as the intentional, repetitive or persistent hurting of one person by another.

The School Council and Buddies were consulted about bullying and they gave the following definitions;

- Bullying is where people pick on someone for a very long time.
- Bullying is when you keep getting hurt day after day.
- Bullying means when somebody calls other people names over and over again.
- Bullying includes cyber bullying e.g. nasty text messages, emails and unkind phone calls.

All parties felt that bullying was a very serious offence.

(Reference Guidelines section for further details of our agreed School definition of Bullying)

## **ENTITLEMENT:**

### **Our pupils have the right to;**

- feel safe, secure and happy in school;
- grow during their school days to be confident and well adjusted members of society;
- be free of the threat of, or actual incidence of bullying;
- be free of the need to resort to bullying behaviour;
- have the confidence to report bullying threats or incidents (on line and offline incidents) to adults and buddies so that they can be dealt with promptly, fairly and with consistency towards all involved.

### **Parents have the right to:**

- be regularly, consistently and actively involved in the social, emotional and moral development of their children;
- be consulted and involved at the very earliest stage, in any occurrence of bullying, in which their child is either the bully or the victim;
- be consulted and informed about any proposed action associated with bullying that has a direct influence on their child;
- access to information about the school's policy and guidelines on the prevention and elimination of bullying via the School Brochure, School Profile,

Website, Parental Workshops and Bullying Information Leaflets.

**The school has the right to:**

- cooperation from pupils and parents in it's efforts to eliminate bullying;
- expect any individual to report information about bullying at once so that it can be dealt with, ensuring minimum distress for all concerned.

**OUTCOMES**

The school continues to seek advice from the Local Authority and will report incidents of serious bullying to the LA in accordance with recent guidance.

This support continues to inform and influence the outcomes of the policy and results in the establishment and maintenance of a positive, safe, secure atmosphere in which all members of our school community flourish.

Reviewed September 2018

Signed : Mrs. J. Jones      Anti Bullying Coordinator

# Anti Bullying Policy Guidelines

## **Section 1: Definition - What is bullying?**

Bullying is the intentional, repetitive or persistent hurting of one person by another. It can be done face to face, through third parties or through sending messages or images by email, text or over the internet. It can be physical and emotional including:

- name calling
- taunting
- threats
- mocking
- making offensive comments
- kicking
- hitting
- pushing
- taking and damaging belongings
- gossiping
- excluding people from groups
- spreading of rumours
- homophobic bullying
- cyber bullying - emails, text, online chat.

Children, young people and adults can both bully and be bullied, regardless of gender, at the same time.

## Section 2: Diagnosis - What are the signs of bullying?

The behaviour of children, young people and adults is not always easily understood. Changes in behaviour may have many causes. Being bullied can be one reason why a child or young person's behaviour changes.

There is a need to be alert to the possibility that bullying is occurring. The following are some of the signs that should be investigated sensitively.

The child or young person may:

- become withdrawn, clingy, moody, aggressive, uncooperative or non-communicative
- behave in immature ways e.g. revert to thumb sucking or tantrums
- have sleep or appetite problems
- have difficulty concentrating
- show variation in performance
- have cuts, bruises or aches and pains without adequate explanation
- request extra money or start stealing
- have clothes or possessions which are damaged or lost
- complain of illness more frequently
- show a marked change in well established patterns of behaviour.

It is important however to remember that every child or young person is different and some may not appear to reveal any outward sign.

### **Section 3: Reporting - How do I record incidents of bullying?**

When an incident is reported it is very important to record all the details accurately, in writing, as soon as possible.

Appendix A is the **Record of Bullying Sheet** used at Thornhill Primary School. This may be used by pupils, parents and staff to record details of what happened, when and who was involved.

Appendices B, C and D respectively are the **Parent, Pupil and Teacher Concern Sheets**. These also enable clear details of incidents and any action taken to be recorded in writing. Copies of completed sheets should be filed in the Year Group Concern Files, located in each classroom.

Incidents of Bullying are now also reported to the Local Authority, in line with their procedures.



## **Section 4: Further Advice - Where can I get more help and advice about bullying and what to do?**

If you would like further advice the following organisations offer a range of support.

- **Anti - bullying Network** - Information sheets for young people, parents and school staff, as well as information and links to relevant organisations.

[www.antibullying.net](http://www.antibullying.net)

- **Bullying at School** - Information for children and young people, advice for sisters, brothers, friends and families, school resources, links and research section, from SCRE (Scottish Centre for Research in Education.) [www.scre.ac.uk/bully/](http://www.scre.ac.uk/bully/)
- **Bullying Online** - Sections on advice for parents, pupils, teachers and youth workers, legal advice, school projects, problem page for children and young people, mobile phone bullying, racist bullying, safety in cyberspace, help for bullies, tips, links, sample letters, anti-bullying policies, out-side school issues, advice from a governor, guidelines from the National Association of Head teachers and DFCS. Telephone 02073781446 [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)
- **Childline** - 24 hour helpline for children and young people in the UK. Also teachers' packs, quizzes,

stories, information sheets, policy and campaign information. Telephone 0800 1111

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

- **Don't suffer in silence** - DFCS site on bullying with sections for pupils, teachers, parents and families; includes case studies, anti-bullying packs for schools, links to other sites.
- **Kidscape** - Frequently asked questions on bullying for children and young people, information and training for parents and professionals, anti-bullying policies and related guidelines, peer support schemes, publications and links. Telephone 0845 120 5204 [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)
- **Parentlineplus** - support for anyone parenting a child and for professionals, wide range of topics, ranging from information for children (7-11 years) and for young people (11 - 16 years) quizzes, fact sheets, leaflets, other publications, news.  
[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)