

Our Approach to Bullying

At Brownlow Fold we make it very clear that bullying is always unacceptable and that it is always taken seriously. It is given high priority by the Headteacher and all the staff.

- We use our PSHE and Computing curriculum to address bullying issues and promote a positive understanding of equality and diversity.
- We teach the children specifically about cyberbullying and the ways to keep themselves safe.
- We provide information and training for our parents on understanding Cyberbullying on-line.
- We make every effort to reinforce the important message ‘ if you feel you are being bullied you need to TELL someone’, and we work to ensure all children have strategies to do so.
- We LISTEN and RESPOND to concerns.

We will take immediate steps to stop the bullying and to ensure the well-being of those being bullied, those who may observe the behaviour and those who may be affected by it.

We recognise that bullying can be the result **of**, or result **in**, low self-esteem, poor academic achievement, isolation and depression. Bullying is never a good thing - it is damaging to both the victim and the bully.

What can be defined as bullying behaviour?

Bullying behaviour is almost always persistent. It can involve the use of power in order to control or hurt others. It can be an individual or a group of children who demonstrate these behaviours. It shows itself in different ways:

- Name calling, ridicule, humiliation
- Hate Crime
- Racist taunts, gestures
- Intimidation, teasing & tormenting
- Stealing or breaking someone's things.
- Pushing, hitting or other acts of physical aggression.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature. With online technologies accessible 24 hours a day, cyberbullying can be relentless. It can also intrude on spaces that were previously personal, for example at home; it can feel that there is no escape from it. It is really important that parents and school work together to support children in this area.

Whilst Cyberbullying may happen outside of school, we will work with our families to tackle the issue just as we would with other instances of bullying.

Bullying or Falling Out ?

It is important for school and families to help children to recognise the difference between a falling out with a friend and bullying so that bullying can be dealt with properly. If the word bullying is used for all disagreements then it is harder for children to identify when bullying is taking place.

What should parents do if you think your child is being bullied?

- Stay calm and reassure - talk to your child to find out as much information as possible. Write down what the child has said to ensure an accurate report is given to the school. Be factual.
- Contact school - either the class teacher or head teacher. Make an appointment to see someone as soon as possible. Explain briefly .
- Give the school time to investigate the allegation in full. This will be done immediately, but can take up to a day.
- Meet with the teacher or Headteacher to discuss the outcome and find out what measures have been taken and what further preventative measures will be put in place.
- Experience tells us that making direct contact with the alleged bully or the family of the alleged bully rarely solves the problem. In fact it often makes matters more difficult.
In instances of Cyberbullying:

- 1) Make sure that your child does not retaliate or return any messages
- 2) Try to keep relevant evidence – it may help with the investigation
- 3) Take steps to prevent re-occurrence. Where a case of bullying is identified directly by the school the same process will be followed.

The school takes the incident as seriously as you do!

What can you do if you realise you are bullying.

- Children bully for lots of different reasons and sometimes when children realise that they are doing it they need help to stop.
- If you find yourself in this situation then the most important thing to do is to ask for help from an adult.
- This adult will then talk to you about what is happening and support you as you stop.
- Bullying is never OK in school, but if you are trying to do the right thing then someone will always help you.

What will school do if an incident of bullying is reported?

- Take the incident seriously and act immediately on report of an incident.
- Investigate the incident fully to find out exactly what happened and whether the reported incident is one of bullying.
- Ask the victim about the events
- Ask the bully their account. Ask about what happened and why it was done?
- Where there is disagreement ask for independent witnesses.
- Ask colleagues for any information which might be relevant / helpful.
- Reassure the victim that they will make every effort to stop the bullying and the importance of reporting any further incidents immediately.
- Reassure the victim that they have done the right thing and that bullying is not tolerated in school.
- Observe and work with the victim and the bully carefully for a period of time.
- Ensure the incident is logged.

- Agree a further meeting with the parents to decide if the incident can be closed or needs further action.

How can teachers and parents help children who are the victims of bullying?

- Provide lots of reassurance and tell them that the bullying is not their fault.
 - Tell the victim that you will make every effort to stop the bullying.
 - Work on activities which will increase the child's confidence and self-esteem.
 - Practise "assertive" role play activities e.g. how to say "no", how to walk away etc
 - Encourage the child to
1. Write down all the distressing things that have happened and then tear it up.
 2. Write down all the good things that have happened to them and the good things they can do.

What can parents do if your child is the victim ?

- give plenty of reassurance to your child that the incident is not their fault
- remind them to inform you and the teacher of any worries or concerns in the future
- build up their self-esteem and confidence by praising the things done well.
- give plenty of responsibility and opportunities to do well
- teach them how to be assertive (not aggressive) in certain situations i.e. how to use a simple response, how to walk away, how to diffuse a situation
- co-operate with school and monitor over a period of time

What can parents do if your child is the bully?

- find out whether your child understands the actions were unacceptable and understands the impact of these actions on the other child.
- try to find out why the child has been bullying and what he/she thinks might stop the bullying in the future

- discuss with the child ways of putting right the damage which has been done. Carry through your decision.
- reassure the child that you still love them, give lots of praise for good behaviour
- show them how to play and join in with others
- ensure all adults in the family set a good example in their own behaviour
- work with the teachers to ensure all adults are working positively with the child to modify their behaviour.

What is the school responsibility for bullying that takes place outside school ?

Head teachers have a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of the school premises. This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises.

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it could be investigated and acted on. The head teacher will also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the actions taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

It is within this remit that we will deal with cyberbullying incidents if they are brought to the attention of the school.

Brownlow Fold Primary

Our Anti-Bullying Policy



Guidelines for Parents, teachers and children

This leaflet is designed to answers many questions relating to bullying. It is a child friendly summary of our school policy which can be found on the school website and is available in school.

Where to find further information

Thinkuknow is an excellent website with resources specifically focused on e-safety and cyberbullying <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Antibullying Alliance provides information for parents and children.

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

ChildLine is a private and confidential service for children and young people up to the age of 19. You can contact a ChildLine counsellor about anything -no problem is too big or too small. The telephone number is 0800 111. Calls are free
Childline can also be found online and they can be contacted by e-mail

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