



Ysgol Gynradd Afon y Felin Primary School



Anti-bullying Policy

Introduction

Bullying is action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally. Bullying is characterized by an individual behaving in a certain way to gain power over another person. Behaviours may include name calling, verbal or written abuse, exclusion from activities, exclusion from social situations or physical abuse. Cyber-bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others. Bullies may behave this way to be perceived as popular or tough or to get attention. They may bully out of jealousy or be acting out because they themselves are bullied. Bullying is not when people have an occasional fight, disagreement or have fallen out of friendship.

Aims and objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

At **Afon y Felin Primary School** we aim to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety. This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur. We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

The role of pupils

Issues about bullying are discussed with pupils during assemblies and on an individual basis and they have a clear understanding of what they need to do if they feel they are being bullied. Pupils are responsible for solving problems and Playground Peacemakers contribute a great deal.

The role of governors

The governing body supports the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of any incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies. The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the headteacher and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.

The headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in our school. Bullying on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, Special Educational Needs or disabilities and long-term health conditions is clearly known to be unacceptable. The headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the headteacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.

The headteacher ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.

The headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

Any incidents of bullying will be recorded so that patterns or repeat incidences can be tracked and monitored.

The role of the teacher

At **Afon y Felin Primary School**, teachers take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in the school.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, the headteacher informs the child's parents.

If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied and we explain why the action of the child was wrong. We endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the headteacher may contact external support agencies such as the behavioural support team.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

How do we support pupils who have been bullied?

We aim to stop the problem and rebuild the confidence of those who have been bullied as well as to alter the behaviour of those who have done the bullying. To help achieve this, we will:

- Provide time and a secure space after an incident
- Talk to parents
- Encourage friends to be observant and supportive
- Help to develop new friendship groups
- Discuss acceptable ways of dealing with problems initially starting with a 'no blame' approach
- Offer counselling where appropriate
- Make sure other teachers and support staff are aware of the problem if this is helpful
- Tell the pupil what action has been taken and continue to monitor the situation

The role of parents

Parent's opinions about the issue of bullying are sought through questionnaires. Parents, who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, are encouraged to contact their child's class teacher or the headteacher immediately. Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

The role of the curriculum

There are many opportunities across the curriculum to promote the anti-bullying culture. As a whole school issue, bullying is tackled through school and class assemblies and outside support is used to highlight issues (e.g. school link police officer). Through their themes, teachers will plan activities linked to anti-bullying across the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

Further measures

During each year some assemblies will address the topic of bullying and work will be done during anti-bullying week. Referrals will be made in other parts of the curriculum through the Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE)

Peer mediators will be trained and offer support each year through our effective Year 5 & Year 6 'Playground Peacemakers' programme

The School Council can refer issues which arise each year.

The policy will be published on the school website

The policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the School Council and the Governors.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness, by discussion with the headteacher at timely intervals.

This policy will next be reviewed;

Review Date:

Signed: