



ANTI BULLYING POLICY/GUIDELINES

At Coomb Briggs we pride ourselves on our family ethos, but as with any family there are conflicts. We aim to dispel conflicts as quickly as possible and it is crucial that we have as much information as possible. Staff should be consistent in their handling of situations, remaining calm and taking control of the anxiety and distress. In extreme circumstances where there is evident danger to an individual or individuals then we may have to raise our voice in order to draw immediate attention to that danger to make it stop.

We adopt a discipline policy that is fair but firm and we endeavour to explain to children the reason why we have to restrict certain actions and show our displeasure when there is an anti-social or dangerous action. Rules exist in all aspect of our lives, and cultures adopt rules in order to maintain traditions, beliefs and laws.

Our school is unique because we have a set of individuals with differing needs to any other school. A class or cohort has a mood or identity determined by the unique make up of individuals within it. A class teacher may ask the class to set its own review of behaviour and discipline, being age appropriate, but this will be determined generally by the school ethos.

In any family children argue and offend each other. Some may become physical and others verbalise their displeasure.

Children are learners and this includes socialisation standards as well as academic. They make mistakes, and teachers are the nurturers of positive actions.

Bullying is an aspect of behaviour that has had much media coverage over recent years. There has been much research into the subject and many support groups have been established in order to support children and adults. It is a legal obligation that schools have a policy but it is only the effectiveness of that policy that can deter the real impact of bullying.

Anyone who is a victim of bullying needs to believe that if they employ the correct actions then it will stop. This action will involve sharing and trust. All victims fear that if they share their anxiety then the situation will become worse. Long-term anxiety can have serious consequences on a person's health and well-being and this must be avoided at all costs when dealing with children.

Bullying is an issue that is raised with pupils from an early age through stories, assemblies, drama, etc. It is important to point out the part of the victim and the instigator as both roles have to be identified. It is important that our youngest children know how to seek help and that they shouldn't be afraid to tell us if they are scared of someone, or their actions. This leads into trust regarding safeguarding issues that may occur outside school.

At Coomb Briggs we identify bullying as a situation when someone is repeatedly made to feel uncomfortable by someone else, even though they do not provoke or encourage the repeated actions. We also outline the different types of bullying including internet / mobile device safety.

As children progress through the school the issue is far more open to discussion with opportunities to discuss scenarios. It is incorporated into the curriculum through Personal Social and Health Education. We have resources to support studies and participate in Anti-Bullying campaigns. Visiting drama groups have been effective in supporting bullying issues.

If children make a claim to any member of staff that they are unhappy about any social interactions then they are listened to and the situation carefully analysed. Staff may give advice and the children concerned are observed in different situations. The children may be drawn together in order to discuss any issues between them. School will make every effort to resolve bullying and may involve parents.

Pupils at Coomb Briggs know that the school does not tolerate Bullying. The older children know that emotional bullying can be as hurtful as physical bullying.

Children are frequently asked about the routes they would use to find help. We have discreet monitoring systems and all staff are aware when there are alerts surrounding individuals or groups. A child may be assigned a Buddy who will keep close contact with that child at playtimes.

If school has not detected inappropriate interactions and we are prompted by parents then the monitoring system will be immediately be put into place and depending on the wishes of the child and parents further action will be taken.

Certain individuals may be identified as vulnerable and close links with parents enable us to monitor any negative influences on their well-being.

Under the SENd COP, maintaining the dignity of any child who receives school or agency support/intervention is paramount and should be considered when monitoring 'pupil voice.'

Children who regularly cross boundaries in terms of behaviour can sometimes be used as scapegoats. Blame can be too readily put upon such children and we have to protect them too as they can be deemed vulnerable.

The important message that we continually give to our children is that they are surrounded by caring people who will listen and we can make things better.

There is always someone to talk to.

There is always someone to listen.

If you are being made to feel unhappy or feel unsafe then we are on your side!

We also acknowledge Cyber Bullying as a serious threat to personal safety and well-being. Hand held devices eg. mobile phones are included in this.

Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones on to the school premises*

Social Media sites have been used as a vehicle for Bullying. We have sought advice regarding children of primary age using Facebook.

Computer consoles also leave children vulnerable.
The school has an Internet Safety Policy

We will make available any support materials such as web sites, for parents on request to Mrs Day.

School staff access and fulfil the on line training through NELC LSCB endorsed by the Bullying Alliance.

Document ref R/M JUNE 2015

J DAY
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*except special endorsements