

FERRYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



ANTI-BULLYING PARENT LEAFLET

All pupils and staff have the right to feel happy, safe and included. Bullying is unacceptable and we are committed to tackling it.

What is Bullying ?

UK Government advice states that there is no legal definition of bullying. However, bullying is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

Cyberbullying and Bullying Outside the School Premises

We know that bullying can occur outside the school gates and via mobile phones and social network internet sites. When we are informed of bullying off the school premises we will talk to pupils and parents about how to avoid or handle bullying outside of school and/or encourage pupils and parents to talk to the police, if this would be an appropriate course of action.

Prevention of Bullying

- Pupils are encouraged to talk to any adult in school about worries or concerns.
- We actively promote Positive Behaviour as part of our school ethos and culture emphasising equality and fair treatment to others. We promote friendships and build good relationships with each other.
- Posters in classrooms and around the school are used to remind pupils that bullying and discrimination are not acceptable, and to tell them what to do if they are bullied.
- The school holds diversity and anti-bullying assemblies and focus weeks.
- We ask pupil views about matters such as relationships in school, using questionnaires, discussions, etc and take action to respond to these views.
- Training opportunities are promoted to staff and parents to develop knowledge, awareness and understanding,

Recognising signs and symptoms of bullying

The following signs and symptoms could indicate other problems, but bullying may be a possibility:

- Not wanting to come to school or to say what's wrong
- Losing confidence and diminishing self-esteem
- Failure to achieve potential in school work
- Becoming withdrawn, nervous or isolated from other children
- Becoming easily distressed, aggressive or disruptive
- Developing problems with eating or sleeping
- Developing recurrent physical ailments such as sore stomachs or generally feeling unwell

What to Do

- Contact the school (0131-538-7382) and ask to speak to, or meet with any member of staff – your concern will be dealt with as quickly as possible

What Happens Next

Pupils who experience bullying or discrimination will be listened to and supported,

- They are reassured that they do not deserve this and it is not their fault.
- We assure them that it was right to report the incident.
- We encourage them to talk about how they feel and try to ascertain the extent of the problem.
- We engage them in making choices about how the matter may be resolved.
- We discuss strategies for being safe and staying safe.
- We ask them to report immediately any further incidents to us.
- We affirm that it can be stopped and that we will persist with intervention until it does.

Work with pupils who bully or discriminate against others

- We interview the pupil (or pupils) involved in bullying/discrimination separately.
- We listen to their version of events and talk to anyone who may have witnessed the incident.
- We reinforce the message that bullying/discrimination is not acceptable, and that we expect it to stop.
- When bullying or discrimination occurs, we contact the parents of the pupils involved at an early stage.

- We consider and when necessary apply sanctions using our school's Positive Behaviour Policy. We aim to restore positive relationships. Various sanctions, including detention, loss of privileges and ultimately possible exclusion from school, are applied as appropriate.
- We remind pupils responsible for bullying that we will monitor the situation to ensure that bullying stops.
- We ensure that those involved know that we have done so.

What Parents Can Do to Help

- Talk regularly with their child
- Ask their child what they feel is needed in order to make things better
- Do not approach another child about this
- Do not encourage their child to bully back
- Encourage their child to tell a member of staff whenever they feel they are being bullied

The Child who is Bullying

It can help if parents and carers

- Try to understand why their young person could be bullying others
- Explain why bullying is wrong (because it can have a very negative impact on both the person who is being bullied and the person who is bullying)
- Meet with staff to discuss how their child can be helped to change their behaviour
- Do not hurt their child by punishing them in a harsh way

Additional Needs

Some behaviour may be the result of an additional need that requires support to be provided by school staff. We work with pupils and parents to provide appropriate support.

Other Sources of Help

Resources can be found on our school website www.ferryhill.edin.sch.uk

Parentline Scotland is a free, confidential and anonymous helpline for parents and carers by Children 1st on 0808 800 2222 or www.children1st.org.uk .

The Scottish Anti-Bullying Network offers free information for parents, carers, pupils and school staff about bullying and how to tackle it. Email info@antibullying.net or visit the website at www.antibullying.net .