

SILVER BIRCH ACADEMY TRUST

Anti – Bullying Policy

ADOPTED BY

Whittingham LGB

DATE

November 2017

REVIEW DATE

November 2019



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Anti – Bullying Policy

What is bullying?

Bullying can be defined as dominance of one pupil by another or a group of others. It is premeditated and part of a pattern, rather than an isolated incident.

There are many definitions of bullying, but most have three things in common:

- It is deliberately hurtful behaviour
- It is repeated often over a period of time
- It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Strategies the school uses to address bullying:

The school's Behaviour Policy stresses the importance of making expectations clear to children about their behaviour and promotes positive behaviours.

- Each class has regular 'circle time' which allows children to talk about feelings and discuss bullying issues.
- There is a professional counsellor on site at school who can provide one-off or more regular sessions to individual children. Her work includes engaging fully with parents during the counselling process.
- Reflection sessions are an opportunity for children to reflect and discuss their actions and the consequences of their actions on other children.
- The school's PSHE curriculum addresses these issues systematically.

Advice to children about Bullying:

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is an essential to keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies as well as PSHE lessons, pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument. Pupils are taught that:

- If you are a victim of bullying, you can tell a member of staff or anyone else you feel safe to talk to. It is not weak to do this.
- If you cannot tell anyone at school, you can tell your parents, who will tell us.
- If you think a friend of yours is being bullied, you should tell a member of staff.

Advice to Parents/Carers about Bullying:

If your child is being bullied, they may:

- Change their behaviour
- Be unwilling to talk about their day at school
- Take things from home without you knowing
- Avoid certain children or activities
- Be reluctant to come to school

If your child is bullying, they may:

- Change their behaviour
- Be unwilling to talk about their day at school
- Come home with things you have not bought for them.

Addressing prejudice and prejudice-based bullying

We recognise that some groups of pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Looked After Children

- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
- Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children from ethnic minorities
- Children entitled to Free School Meals
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual

The school challenges all forms of prejudice and prejudice-based bullying, which stand in our way of fulfilling our commitment to inclusion and equality

There is guidance in the Staff Handbook on how prejudice-related incidents should be recorded and dealt with. We treat all bullying incidents equally seriously. All reports of bullying, racial, sexual or other harassment will be investigated and recorded. We review incidents regularly and take action to reduce reoccurrence. Staff must always act and be seen to act to protect victims.

