

## ANTI-BULLYING

At Hope Federation of Church of England Primary Academies we believe that all pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

This leaflet sets out some of the ways that parents can help the school to identify, prevent and deal with bullying.

### WHAT IS BULLYING?

It is important to make the distinction between bullying and friends falling out with each other. Falling out is an inevitable part of a child's life that they need to learn to cope with.

Bullying is a persistent, repeated and deliberate attempt to hurt or humiliate someone; if it only happens once, it is not bullying.

#### **Bullying is neither inevitable or acceptable.**

Bullying can occur through several types of anti-social behaviour:

- Physical – involving punching, kicking, hitting etc
- Verbal – taking the form of name calling. It may be directed towards gender, ethnic origin, physical/social disability etc.

- Cyber bullying – sending abusive text messages or e-mails or by abusive comments being made within chat rooms, such as MSN or Facebook.
- Damage to property or theft – Property may be damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used by the bully in order that the pupil hand over property to him/her.

### Advice for Parents.

#### **If you child says they have been bullied**

- ✓ Make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help.
- ✓ Calmly talk to your child about his/her experiences. Consider if what your child is describing IS bullying and, whilst supporting your child, be objective.
- ✓ Make a note of what your child says – including how often the bullying has occurred, where it happened, who is involved.
- ✓ Reassure your child that you will be working with the staff at the school to ensure that the bullying stops without making the situation worse for them.
- ✓ Inform the school – via your child's teacher or Mrs Allen.
- ✓ Advise your child not to fight back as it can often make matters worse.

### Is your child bullying others?

Children sometimes bully others because they do not know that it is wrong, or they are copying an older sibling or even an adult behaviour. They may be going through difficult times themselves or are scared and have low self esteem.

At Hope Federation of Church of England Primary Academies we discourage all types of bullying behaviour and praise and encourage positive behaviour.

### Dealing with Bullying

It can take time to help those who are being bullied and those who are using bullying behaviour but we will always do our best to ensure that no child comes to school in fear of being bullied.

We have an established anti-bullying policy and respond positively to all instances of bullying to ensure that they are dealt with satisfactorily.

If bullying is suspected we talk to all the children concerned. Help and support will be given as is appropriate to both the victims and the bullies.

We will:

- ✓ Offer children an immediate opportunity to talk about the experience with their teacher or another adult if they choose.
- ✓ Inform parents/guardians.
- ✓ Offer continuing support if children feel they need it.
- ✓ Continue to work with all children in order to get rid of prejudiced attitudes.

For full details of how we deal with reported bullying, please see our Anti-Bullying Policy.

#### **What the children should do.**

Each child has been given a copy of their own Anti-Bullying guidelines, which clearly sets out what they should do if they are being bullied. Always, the most important rule is:

#### **TELL AN ADULT STRAIGHT AWAY!**

If you or your child has any concerns or worries regarding bullying, or you would like a copy of our Anti-Bullying Policy, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher, Mr Kerkham, Mrs Felton, Miss Ojelade or Mrs Allen.

#### *Useful websites:*

Bullying UK –

The UK Anti-Bullying Charity

[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

Anti-bullying Alliance

[www.antibullyingalliance.org](http://www.antibullyingalliance.org)

Kidscape

[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

Childline

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

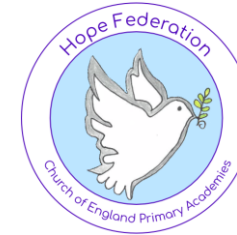
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*'Enabling our children to flourish  
through the field of life'*

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Church of England Primary Academies

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## **Information for Parents and Carers**

