

Abbot Beyne School



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Policy:	Anti-Bullying Policy
Person Responsible:	Mrs F Airey
Governors' Committee:	Student & Personnel
Date Adopted:	July 2012
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Next Review Date:	June 2017
Signature:	

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

ANTI-BULLYING AT ABBOT BEYNE SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Guidelines

Statement of Intent

Abbot Beyne received the Staffordshire Anti – Bullying Pledge in July 2011, July 2013 and was re-accredited in June 2015. Our school became a ‘Stonewall Champion School’ in May 2016. As a school we are committed to attaining a bullying free environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying or harassment of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to report it in the knowledge that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are, therefore, a TELLING school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening to themselves or anyone else, is expected to tell the staff or use one of the other channels detailed in this policy.

What is Bullying?

Bullying involves any repeated action on the part of one or more persons that the victim in question finds extremely hurtful. It should be noted that the above definition would, therefore, exclude one off events and could in some cases, perhaps, involve the so-called ‘bully’ or ‘bullies’ not realising the significance of their action.

Bullying can take different forms and can be blatant or exceptionally subtle.

Bullying can be:

Emotional: being excluded, tormented (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)

Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of aggression and intimidation.

Racial: racial taunts, use of racial symbols, graffiti, gestures

Sexual: unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments homophobic, transphobic and biphobic comments and graffiti.

Verbal: name-calling, spreading rumours, teasing

Cyber: All areas of internet, such as e-mail and internet, chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities.

Guidelines

Why is it important to respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated equally and with respect. Students who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving and may themselves need help and guidance in this area. The school has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Signs and Symptoms:

A child may indicate by signs of behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of possible signs that could indicate bullying is occurring. The person may be:-

- Frightened of walking to or from school
- Doesn't want to go on the school/public bus
- Begs to be driven to school
- Unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Damaged or incomplete work
- Has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has dinner or other monies frequently "lost"
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Nervous and jumpy when a cyber-message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered as a possibility and should be investigated.

The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly. No two cases are the same, which can make consistency of response difficult. Furthermore, it is widely accepted that whilst punishment of the bully may be deemed necessary, he or she almost certainly needs as much support as the victim.

Procedures and support system in the school:

Students should be encouraged to report all cases of bullying to: Mentors, Progress Leaders, Pastoral Tutors, SMT, Student Leaders, or any other responsible adult in the school.

Investigations of bullying incidents must be the responsibility of the Progress Leader/Pastoral Tutor, any member of staff who has an incident reported to them should refer it to the appropriate Progress Leader who will investigate the issue.

Some victims may only want to be supported from a distance or only require someone to listen and cannot be encouraged to report the incident to a member of staff. These students should be encouraged to seek advice from peer mentors. The Student Leaders are there to 'actively listen' and can be contacted in person or confidentially through the appropriate group channels.

The victim needs to be consulted as to what would help them before a course of action is decided. Neither the victim nor the bullies should be singled out as this could lead to further bullying.

Progress Leaders/Pastoral Tutors need to follow the procedures detailed below when investigating incidents of bullying. Every case will be different and the procedures will need to be tailored to suit the individual circumstances.

1. Investigation: written statements if appropriate, from the victim, the bully and any third party witnesses who should be interviewed separately, but should not be singled out publicly.
2. The incident will be recorded by staff, copies of **all** correspondence and statements should be placed on file/on the system.
3. Counsel victims and perpetrator and contact parents if appropriate. Give support to all victims and perpetrators. Consider the public response to the incident.
4. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.

Outcomes:

The individual incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the sanctions in the behaviour policy.

In serious cases, exclusion will be considered.

If possible, the students will be reconciled and given peer mentor support, if appropriate further mentoring.

After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be recorded and monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place. Support must be given to the bully to help change their behaviour as well as the victim.

Prevention:

The Curriculum includes Deep Learning Days which focuses on the issue of bullying in Year 7 and in other year groups as appropriate.

Other interventions include the annual Anti-Bullying Week – where there is a whole school input on raising awareness in all Year Groups through assemblies, discussions, focus groups, role play and theatre visits.

Anti-bullying surveys are undertaken regularly for all stakeholders.

Student Leaders support students.

Pastoral Tutors are available in Evershed and Linnell.

Termly interrogation of incident log to identify bullying incidents and inform the focus for Assemblies and Deep Learning Days.

A Bully Blog designed by Year 8 students on the School Website.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	020 7354 8321
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri -10-4)	0845 1205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk
Childline	0800 1111

THIS POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY