



Anti-Bullying Policy



Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

Rawmarsh Ashwood recognises there is a need to safeguard the welfare of all those within the school community and to encourage a culture of co-operation, acceptance and harmony.

Rawmarsh Ashwood is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We have high expectations of all pupils, staff and parents and strive to create a school community in which all children can fulfil their potential.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Rawmarsh Ashwood. If bullying does occur all incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. The school actively implements its anti-bullying policy and has clear pathways for reporting which are known to all members of the school community. All reported incidents will be actioned by our Anti-bullying Co-ordinator (Mr. A. Jessop). Rawmarsh Ashwood celebrates diversity and promotes cohesion within our community.

What is Bullying?

The Government defines bullying as:

Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. (Safe to Learn: Embedding anti-bullying in schools. DCSF)

Some of the reasons for being bullied are as follows:

- Race, religion or culture
- Special Education Needs or disability
- Appearance or health conditions
- Sexual orientation
- Home circumstances and lifestyles including young carers and looked after children.
- Sexist or sexual bullying

Bullying behaviours can include:

- Verbal eg name-calling, making offensive comments, taunting
- Physical eg kicking, hitting
- Emotional eg spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours, excluding people from groups
- Cyber eg inappropriate texting/emailing, inappropriate use of MSN etc
- Written eg ridicule through drawings, writing on planners/PC's
- Incitement eg encouraging others to bully
- Extortion eg demands for money or personal property
- Damage to Property eg theft of bags, tearing clothes, ripping books



This is by no means a comprehensive list of reasons and behaviours and some evolve at different times.

Impact of Bullying

Research confirms the destructive effects of bullying on young peoples lives. Some of the effects are:

- Low self esteem and poor self-worth
- Lack of confidence
- Anxiety
- Loss of identity
- Poor school attendance
- Feelings of guilt
- Long term mental health difficulties

All of the above can result in children and young people failing to achieve the Every Child Matters outcomes. (www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

Signs of Bullying

- Reluctance to attend school
- Poor school performance
- Behaving out of character
- Missing or damaged belongings

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

Anti-Bullying Strategy

What we will do as a school:

- Ensure the whole school community has an understanding of bullying and its consequences
- Appoint a designated member of staff as anti-bullying officer .
- Appoint an Anti-bullying Governor
- Ensure that there are clear and consistent pathways for reporting incidents of bullying which are known to all members of the school community.
- Implement a consistent system for recording incidents of bullying in line with RMBC guidelines
- As well as responding appropriately to incidents, we will also develop a preventative approach to bullying. Students will be encouraged to recognise that not only do they have rights; the choices they make bring responsibilities.
- Review the anti-bullying policy annually in consultation with the whole school community.
- Identify and make safe, areas in school where bullying could occur.
- Be aware of factors which may cause some children to be more vulnerable than others.



How we will work with victims of bullying

Ensure that they are listened to.

Ensure that strategies are put in place to support their individual needs.

Ensure students are consulted, and kept involved and informed.

How we will work with those accused of bullying

Ensure that they are listened to.

Ensure that strategies are put in place to support their individual needs.

Ensure students are consulted, and kept involved and informed.

Implement appropriate sanctions and learning programmes.

How we will work with bystanders

Ensure that they are listened to.

Ensure that strategies are put in place to support their individual needs.

Implement appropriate learning programmes and awareness raising about the impact of bystanders.

How we will educate the school community

Emphasise through all aspects of the curriculum that bullying will not be tolerated.

Ensure that the anti-bullying officer and governor attend appropriate training and development.

Provide training opportunities for the whole school staff body.

Ensure that students learn to recognise, respect and value the differences between groups of people within the school community.

Suggested Strategies

- Circle Time
- Peer mentoring
- Peer mediation
- Buddying
- Circle of Friends
- Support from external agencies eg Rotherham Mind, Anti-Bullying Development Officer,
- Sharing good practice with other schools



Useful References

Safe to Learn: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools. DCSF
www.Teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref: DCSF – 00656-2007

Cyber bullying Guidance. DCSF
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref: DCSF – 00658 – 2007

Cyber bullying – a whole school community issue
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref: DCSF – 00685 – 2007

Homophobic bullying guidance. DCSF
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref: DCSF – 00668 – 2007

Bullying involving children with special educational needs and disabilities guidance. DCSF
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref: DCSF – 00372 – 2008

Safe from Bullying – guidance for local authorities and other strategic leaders on reducing bullying in the community. DCSF
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref. DCSF-00451-2009

Safe from Bullying – training resources
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref.DCSF-00449-2009

Safe from Bullying – on journeys
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref. DCSF – 00444-2009

Safe from Bullying – in play and leisure provision
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref. DCSF-00450-2009



Useful References

Safe from Bullying – in Youth Activities
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref. DCSF-00448-2009

Safe from Bullying – in Children's Homes
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref. DCSF – 00447 - 2009

Parent know how leaflet – How to deal with bullying DCSF
Anti Bullying Alliance
www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Safe from Bullying – in extended services in and around schools
www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications
Ref. DCSF-00446-2009