



Anti-Bullying Policy

Seaham Trinity Primary school seeks to provide a safe, secure and positive environment in which children and young people can develop and grow making use of the range of facilities available to them.

Children, young people and the adults involved with them are entitled to be treated with respect and understanding, and to participate in any activity free from intimidation.

Seaham Trinity Primary School seeks to ensure that those acting on behalf of the school:

- Actively listen to children and young people;
- Act appropriately on information received;

In order to ensure that a safe, secure and positive environment exists.

Seaham Trinity Primary School aims to:

1. Challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for anyone in our community who is bullied, and help build an anti-bullying ethos in our school community.
2. Ensure everyone is aware of others being pressured by their peers and do not allow such incidents to go unchallenged.
3. Take an active stand against bullying behaviour.
4. Provide opportunities within school which enable students to talk openly about bullying, and help them understand why some people bully others.
5. Ensure any bullying behaviour is responded to promptly and consistently dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.
6. Encourage students, parents, governors and all members of staff to report incidents of bullying wherever possible.
7. Ensure our pupils know how to keep safe when using the internet, mobile phones, chat rooms etc.
8. Establish an environment where homophobic, racist and other abusive language is not tolerated.

Definitions of Bullying

Bullying may be defined as the intentional abuse of power by an individual or group with the intent and motivation to cause distress to another individual or group. It may be physical, sexual, racial, verbal, technological (cyber), homophobic or psychological in nature. It may occur frequently or infrequently, but it should always be taken seriously- even if it has only occurred on one occasion.

Physical Bullying: Involves such things as hitting, pushing, kicking, biting, pinching, hair pulling etc.

Sexual Bullying: involves unwanted physical contact or sexual abusive or inappropriate comments.

Racial Bullying: this makes a person feel targeted because of their colour, ethnicity, culture or faith. Racial bullying can take the form of: racial/religious taunts/jokes, graffiti,

gestures, wearing provocative badges or slogans, bringing racist material into school, inciting others to act in a racist way, refusing to co-operate in work or play because of racial differences.

Verbal Bullying: name calling, insulting person's family, threats of physical violence, spreading rumours, constantly putting a person down.

Emotional/Psychological Bullying: Can be subtle and involves isolating or excluding a person from a group/activity.

Cyber Bullying: This is the intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact such as: text message, internet, social networks (e.g. MSN, Facebook etc), hate websites, taking inappropriate footage with a camera/camera phone.

Homophobic Bullying: This occurs when bullying is motivated by prejudice against lesbian, gay or bisexual people. It can take the form of insulting language/gestures/graffiti based on a person's actual or perceived sexuality

Cyber Bullying: How to stay safe...

All staff have received training in E-safety. This training is available to parents and forms part of the children's curriculum in PHSCE and IT.

Unwanted calls/text messages

- If mobile phones need to come to school they must be handed into the office at the start of the day.
- If a call or message is received do not reply.
- Save phone number/or message to show to an adult.
- Tell an adult straight away; contact your network provider who may be able to change your number.
- Only give your mobile number to close friends and family.

Unacceptable e-mails

- Do not reply, save e-mails to show to an adult.
- Keep your e-mail address private; tell only close friends and family.
- If it occurs in school make sure you tell a member of staff immediately.
- When social networking report any abusive/offensive behaviour to an adult who should save the material and report it to the network provider

Signs to look out for:

The behaviour of children and young people and adults is not always easily understood. Changes in behaviour may have causes. Being bullied can be one reason why someone has changed.

The following are some of the signs to be aware of:

- Cuts and bruises which are not adequately explained.
- Clothes or possessions are damaged or lost.
- Requests for extra money.
- Pupils start using different routes to and from school.
- Requests for a change of class/school.
- Reluctance or refusal to attend school.
- Unwanted telephone calls/text messages on your mobile.
- An unexpected change in personality/behaviour.

- Have sleep or appetite problems.

Some victims of bullying do not show any of the above signs therefore we need foster an open and caring environment whereby all members feel they can share their experiences.

Guidelines for students

- If you are being bullied or know someone who is, talk to an adult you feel comfortable with. You will be listened to and we will do something about it.
- We will explain what can be done but you will help to decide what happens next.
- We might need to tell someone else, but we will explain this to you first.
- An Anti-bullying Co-ordinator, Lynsey Turner, is available every Wednesday lunchtime for you to seek advice and discuss concerns. Children can put written requests in a box labelled Place2 Talk. The Place2 Be worker will then talk to the child and an appropriate course of action will be agreed.

Guidelines for Parents/Carers

- If a Parent/Carer suspects a child is being bullied, they should always contact school. This should be with the child's agreement, if possible.
- Every referral from any parent will be dealt with individually and sensitively.
- Bullying is never acceptable. Do not tell your child "Just put up with it." Actions need to be taken to stop the bullying.
- All incidents will be investigated and we will work in partnership with parents to best support their child. This may involve working with our support agencies: Education Welfare Service, Health Services, Community Police, Place2Be, Listening Matters, Behaviour Support, Crisis Response and Anti-Bullying Services.
- Students have access to the Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, Lynsey Turner, who is available every Wednesday lunchtime for children to seek advice, discuss concerns and develop strategies to bring a successful conclusion to the problem.
- At Seaham Trinity Primary we operate a buddies system in both KS1 and KS2. These buddies are children from year 6 and carry identity badges. They work closely with Place2Be to develop their skills to support and provide mentoring to the younger children.
- The EWO is available to support the victim of bullying and their families. It is acknowledged that the victim's families also suffer stress.
- The school also has a Parent support advisor who can offer support to the families or sign post the family to the appropriate support structures.

Guidelines for all staff

- Dealing with bullying is the responsibility of all members of the school community and should always be seen as a priority. Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Students should feel able to tell staff if they are being bullied in the knowledge that they will be listened to and treated sympathetically.
- In dealing with bullying behaviour, all personnel should be aware of and use consistently a set of clearly defined procedures.
- The curriculum should be used to challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for bullied students and help promote an anti-bullying ethos in school.

- Students, parents and staff have access to the school Anti-Bullying co-ordinator and Head Teacher. Who will
 1. Work with individual students who are being bullied, or perpetrators of bullying, to try to help them.
 2. Have group sessions so that students can share experiences and ideas.
 3. Promote anti-bullying awareness in school through the use of SEAL, whole school assemblies, circle time, theatre groups etc.
 4. Help parents who are concerned about bullying issues.
 5. Place2Be have trained counsellors who can support children.
 6. Help with Staff training on anti-bullying where required.
- Staff should inform the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher of any incidents of bullying.
- Children will be taught through the PHSCE and IT curriculum the potential dangers of cyber bullying and educate children to make correct decisions.
- Training is available for parents to inform them of the safe use of technology.

Procedures for Staff

- Any students with concerns will be offered an immediate opportunity to talk about the experience to a member of the Pastoral team

- Karen Johnson-Head Teacher

- Elizabeth Sandywell –Deputy Head Teacher

-Lynsey Turner- Anti-bullying co-ordinator

-Gill Morrill - Place2BE

- The pastoral team will ensure that the child's immediate safety and well being will be attended to. A course of action will then be agreed.
- All instances of bullying behaviour should be investigated promptly and consistently and where appropriate parents/carers will be informed.
- Evidence of sexual or serious abuse must be immediately referred to the Child protection Officers in School- Ray Bushby and Karen Johnson.
- Incidences of bullying should be recorded.
- For serious and persistent bullying offences, the parents/carers of both parties will be informed and invited into school.
- For bullying which results in damage to property or person, senior staff should be notified immediately.
- Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the School Behaviour Policy

Useful contacts

County Durham anti-Bullying Service

Tel: 01388424955

www.durhamlea.org.uk/abs

Buddy Service:

E-mail- askbuddy@durhamlea.org.uk

Childline

Tel: 0800111111(free)

www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC

Tel: 0800800 500 (free)

www.there4me.com

Kidscape

(For Parents of Bullied children)

Tel: 08451205 204

www.kidscape.org.uk