

DUNCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY GUIDELINES

AIMS

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Duncombe School. If bullying occurs, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Duncombe is a telling school.....Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intent of hurting another person either physically or verbally and which results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can include:

PHYSICAL pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching, or any other use of violence

VERBAL name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

EMOTIONAL excluding, tormenting (i.e. hiding books, threatening gestures)
being unfriendly.

RACIST Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures

SEXUAL unwanted physical contact or abusive comments

OBJECTIVES

- Duncombe staff, governors, pupils and parents should have an understanding of bullying
- Bullying will not be tolerated at Duncombe
- Clear procedures for reporting bullying should be understood and followed

PROCEDURES

Report bullying incident to staff.

1. In cases of serious bullying the incidents will be recorded by staff.
2. Parents should be informed (in serious cases) and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem.

3. The bullying behaviour and threat of bullying must immediately stop.
4. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) to change their behaviour.
5. The bully will offer an apology and other appropriate consequences may take place.
6. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
7. If possible the pupils will be reconciled.

PREVENTION

Duncombe School will continue to prevent bullying by writing a set of school rules, signing a behaviour contract, writing stories or drawing pictures about bullying, reading stories about bullying or having them read to class or assembly, making up role plays and having discussions.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS (From Stop Bullying! Kidscape)

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults would be aware that these are possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- is unwilling to go to school
- begins to do poorly in schoolwork
- becomes withdrawn, starts stammering
- regularly has books or clothes destroyed
- becomes distressed, stops eating
- cries easily
- becomes disruptive or aggressive
- has possessions go 'missing'
- has dinner or other monies continually 'lost'
- starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- attempts to run away
- has nightmares

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

HELP ORGANISATIONS

Care Line	0208 541 1177
Childline	0800 1111
Children's Legal Centre	01206 873 820
Child Guidance Centre	0207 937 4561
Kidscape	0207 730 3300
Parent Line	01702 559900

For a free copy of the 16 page guide 'Stop Bullying!' send a SAE to Kidscape, 152 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR.

CODE FOR CHILDREN

Duncombe is a telling school

If you have a problem, tell a member of staff

If they cannot help, keep telling until you find someone who can help you

It's not cowardly to tell. Everyone has the right to feel safe in school

We should treat everyone, as we would like them to treat us