



CROFTLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Spring 2017

Accepted by the Governing Body

Date

Signed by

Within Croftlands Junior School we aim

- To provide an atmosphere of trust and confidence where every member of each school community is valued and appreciated and where everyone can enjoy their time in school and can realise their own potential.
- To provide the best quality education for our children so that they can achieve their fullest individual potential.
- To achieve this by striving to maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning and by providing a safe, stimulating and healthy environment where all children and adults feel valued for the contribution they make.
- To develop the children's respect for themselves and for others and to promote a caring, positive attitude towards the community and their local environment.
- To prepare children for life in its widest sense, enabling them to take their place in society as fulfilled and committed individuals, able to play their part in local and wider affairs as well as achieving economic well being.
- To give equal opportunities to all our pupils so that they may become contributors to a society free of all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Interested parties who wish to discuss this document and its contents further should contact the Chair of Governors or the Head Teacher of Croftlands Junior School.

Please contact the Chair of Governors or the clerk of Croftlands Junior School if you wish to have a copy of this document in a different format.

There may be occasions when parents wish to complain about matters relating to the curriculum, policy documents or collective worship which are the responsibility of the Governing Body and/or the Local Authority. Special, formal arrangements exist for dealing with complaints of this kind. Copies of a leaflet which outlines these arrangements are available in school, as are copies of the full arrangements themselves. Advice on how to pursue a formal complaint is also available from the school website www.cumbria.gov.uk

Introduction

What is bullying?

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, including aggression, towards another, which is difficult for the victim to prevent and which is usually, although not always, repeated over a period of time.

Bullying takes three main forms:-

- physical bullying such as hitting, kicking or taking personal belongings.
- verbal bullying such as name calling, insulting others and making offensive remarks.
- indirect bullying such as spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups or being made the subject of malicious rumours.

Bullying may also take specific forms such as racial or sexual harassment or the intimidation of pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Aim

At Croftlands Junior School we aim to prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils, so that members of the school community feel safe and secure. It is our aim to challenge any incidents of bullying effectively, to improve the safety and welfare of pupils and to show that such behaviour is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Our aim is to work together - staff, pupils, parents and governors - to promote a caring ethos and provide a safe environment, where children may develop and learn, with confidence and trust.

Strategies to Combat Bullying

Curricular Approaches

Curriculum work in PSHE and RE is used to raise children's awareness of the issues surrounding bullying and in developing attitudes and strategies to prevent it. A caring ethos, based on tolerance and understanding is developed through discussion in assemblies and lessons. Increased understanding and sympathy for victims is used to discourage bullying and children are taught to relate to others in a positive and constructive way. Children are encouraged to work together, in a cooperative and supportive manner, to prevent bullying in all its forms. Respect for others is emphasised and racial, sexual, and religious equality promoted at all times. Books, videos or visits from theatre groups are used to illustrate and develop anti-bullying themes.

E-safety

The school takes e-safety and cyber bullying very seriously. The school has an E-safety officer who is responsible for the promotion of e-safety in school. Computing lessons include e-safety and all classes undertake lessons on internet safety as part of Internet Safety day every year.

Circle Time/PHSE lessons

Class circle time and PHSE lessons are used to explore issues causing concern, such as bullying and to discuss solutions to such difficulties. Participation in these activities gives the children an opportunity for dealing with problems, with clear rules and procedures to ensure cooperation. They are able to voice their concerns without fear of intimidation and to find solutions to their problems in a way which promotes positive attitudes, listening to and valuing other points of view and respecting individual rights and needs. Individual children can be supported or, if appropriate, challenged about their behaviour and strategies agreed for preventing bullying.

The School Council

Class representatives are encouraged to raise concerns over bullying at meetings of the School Council, widening the network of support for pupils. Strategies for preventing bullying are discussed and agreed with

staff. Older members are encouraged to monitor the situation in school and to befriend younger pupils. They are encouraged to challenge any pupils involved in threatening or intimidating behaviour and report any incidents of bullying to staff. The School Council can be involved in discussing sanctions for repeated incidents of bullying.

Friendship Groups

Friendship groups are used to establish a network of support for vulnerable children and to provide positive role models for pupils involved in bullying. By improving pupils' acceptance and inclusion at break times, with offers of friendship, games to play etc., individuals or groups play a key part in preventing incidents of bullying in vulnerable areas such as the playground.

Adult Support

An adult may work directly with individual pupils to prevent incidents of bullying, providing close support for victims, as a friend or mentor or focusing on the child involved in the bullying to improve their behaviour. The adult will work with the child to establish ground rules to improve the situation in school. They will provide opportunities to discuss the problem and agree strategies to prevent a reoccurrence of the bullying. Progress in preventing further difficulties will be monitored by the adult through weekly chats or meetings.

Direct Action

Direct action to deal with bullying will be guided by 5 key points.

- never ignore suspected bullying.
- never make assumptions, always check facts.
- listen carefully to all accounts before weighing up evidence.
- move the children on from justifying themselves to accepting responsibility and finding solutions to the problem.
- follow up regularly, checking that the bullying has not resumed.

Procedures

Clear guidance and procedures with regard to bullying are outlined in the school's Behaviour policy which is available on the school website and from the school office. The procedures and sanctions were drawn up in consultation with the children and staff and shared with parents and governors.

Conclusion

The prevention of bullying remains a priority at Croftlands Junior School and policy and procedures are reviewed regularly and updated through a process of consultation and discussion between staff, pupils, parents and governors. INSET opportunities and staff meetings are used to improve behaviour management in school and ensure the prevention of bullying so that pupils may continue to learn and develop in a safe, caring environment.