

Lumley Junior School



Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

"Research suggests that bullying not only causes considerable suffering to individual pupils but also has a damaging effect upon school atmosphere It is hard to see how a school can win the confidence of its pupils if it fails to deal with behaviour which so seriously damages the quality of their lives". (Discipline in Schools - Report of the Elton Committee)

At Lumley Junior School we accept bullying as that defined by the Durham County Working Party, namely:-

Bullying may be defined as the abuse of power by an individual or group in relation to another individual or group. It may be physical, sexual, verbal or psychological in nature. It may occur frequently or infrequently, regularly or irregularly but it should be taken seriously even if it has occurred on one occasion.

Aims

The aim within Lumley Junior School is to prevent bullying in school. We believe we should attempt to ensure that:-

- a) all staff, parents, students and governors are aware that bullying is viewed seriously.
- b) guidelines are developed by us which make it clear to children, parents and staff the steps which will be taken when bullying is reported.

Entitlement

All young people have the right to enjoy to the fullest possible extent the benefits of the educational provision offered by our school under the auspices of the LEA

In order to maximise these benefits our children need to be educated in an environment which, in co-operation with themselves, parents and staff:-

- is safe and caring
- provides challenges but is non-threatening
- encourages children to feel secure
- values children's opinions and involves them, when necessary
- shows an awareness of children's individual needs and attempts to meet these.

We believe that when a child claims to have been bullied or is suspected of being bullied he/she is entitled to expect:-

- to be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish the facts
- appropriate action will be taken to address the child's concerns and to ensure that there is no reoccurrence

- the action we intend to take will be made clear to the child and the child's parents.

We believe a child who is suspected of bullying is entitled to expect:

- to be listened to in an appropriate setting and that every effort will be made to establish the facts
- to know what action the school can take
- to know what action the school intends to take
- parents informed of the situation

We believe that parents are entitled to expect that:-

- their child will be educated in an atmosphere which is safe, caring and not characterised by violence and intimidation
- the school will take all reasonable steps to prevent bullying
- any bullying incident which is reported will be investigated and dealt with according to the schools guidelines

School Guidelines

Children who believe they are being bullied should:-

- tell a teacher or another adult, or ask a friend to tell a teacher or another adult, on their behalf
- expect a private discussion and thorough investigation by a teacher or Mrs Wilson
- not do anything which may provoke the alleged bully/bullies into further action
- try to distance themselves from the bullies
- not be alone or go to secluded areas of school where they would be more vulnerable
- not be afraid to tell their parents
- be prepared to write down as soon as possible exactly what happened
- be informed exactly what will be done
- report to a teacher or Mrs Wilson if there is any continuation of the bullying
- keep their teacher or Mrs Wilson informed of the situation

Children who see bullying taking place should:-

- inform a teacher or another adult of the incident
- be prepared to write down as soon as possible exactly what happened
- expect the matter to be investigated
- expect their identity to be protected if possible.

Children who are alleged bullies should:-

- expect a private discussion and thorough investigation by a teacher or Mrs Wilson
- be prepared to write down as soon as possible exactly what happened

- be prepared to discuss the situation with their parents
- be informed exactly what will be done
- keep their teacher or Mrs Wilson informed of the situation

Parents should:-

- encourage their children to talk frankly about any alleged incidents
- listen sympathetically to what their children have to say
- convince their children that it is sensible to discuss their worries
- let the school know what is happening support their children in condemning bullying
- be notified of concerns by the school
- be informed of what action the school will take
- be asked to contact the school for a progress report.

Staff should:-

- hold a private discussion and have a thorough investigation of what i) victims: ii) bullies have to say
- reassure the pupil that steps will be taken to protect them from further abuse
- log the details either in the pastoral file or on an incident sheet as appropriate and if necessary inform Mrs Wilson
- where necessary Mrs Wilson will inform parents of the situation
- ensure that both victim and bully understand what is to be done as a consequence
- hold future meetings with both victim and bully separately to assess progress

Signed

Tracey Wilson
Head Teacher

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