



*Yes we can*

## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

**Spring 2017**

### **1. A Definition of Bullying.**

What is Bullying?

Repeated intimidating behavior that is persistent and consistently aimed at a targeted person over a period of time.

It can be:

- Any behaviour which makes a pupil feel threatened, hurt or frightened
- **Physical** - hitting, punching, kicking and fighting
- **Verbal** – name-calling, threats, racial abuse, gender abuse, disability harassment or religious harassment.
- **Text message (SMS), email or social networking sites.**
- Taking or damaging another person's property
- In its extreme form constitute a criminal offence

### **2. School Mission and Core Beliefs**

2. i. At Henry Fawcett Primary School we recognise that learning is personally and economically empowering

We believe that our children bring a unique diversity of experience and backgrounds and an enthusiasm and resilience which we celebrate in school.

Our distinctive aim is to create the conditions in which this is most likely to happen.

2. ii. Central to this is the security of a school and classroom environment that promotes high expectations and establishes clear boundaries and routines. This is promoted by an explicit statement of aims – 'The Henry Fawcett Way'.
2. iii. An inclusive ethos and well supported good classroom practice is therefore a pre-requisite to ensuring children are safe and happy.
2. iv. By employing an additional full-time, qualified mainstream class teacher in every year group from Year Two to Year Six we are able to quickly identify and deal with any issues the children may face.

### **3. Ways we combat bullying**

- 3. i. We regularly discuss issues of bullying in assembly.
- 3. ii. Bullying is tackled in the school curriculum through PHSE and by making links to other areas of the curriculum.
- 3. iii. Clear boundaries are set within the classroom to make bullying unacceptable.
- 3. iv. Playground Ambassadors and a dedicated Playground Teaching Assistant are on the playground to deal swiftly with any issues.
- 3. v. A coach is also employed to provide positive activities to occupy the children and pre-empt issues that arise from boredom and lack of supervision.
- 3. vi. School council regularly discuss bullying and are able to report any incidents.
- 3. vii. Confidential Friendship Boxes are available in each Year group.

### **4. What children should do if they think they are being bullied**

- 4. i. Always tell someone. It can be your friend, your student council member, your teacher or any grown up in school. They will always listen to you.
- 4. ii. You can write a note and put it in the Friendship Box for your teacher to read. You do not need to write your name.
- 4. iii. If you are worried about telling someone in school you can tell your parent and they can talk to the school.
- 4. iv. If you think your friend is being bullied please also tell someone.
- 4. v. If the problem does not stop straight away come back and tell us.
- 4. vi. Remember there are always two sides to any problem and we must look at all problems from all sides.

You must tell somebody, as we cannot deal with things we don't know about.

### **5. What Parents should do if they feel their child is being bullied.**

- 5. i. Talk to your child. Find out what the problem is.
- 5. ii. Contact the school and make an appointment to the class teacher.
- 5. iii. We will discuss the problem with you and design a plan of action to suit the situation.
- 5. iv. If the problem does not stop straight away come back and tell us.
- 5. v. Remember there are always two sides to any problem and we must look at all problems from all sides.

### **6. How we will deal with incidents of bullying.**

- 6. i. We will work together to make children aware that the school does not find bullying acceptable
- 6. ii. We will always listen if someone tells us they are being bullied.
- 6. iii. We will hear both sides of the story.

6. iv. Where necessary, we will carry out an investigation into the incident.
6. v. Children who are found to be bullies will face school sanctions, and will be told to stop the behaviour immediately
6. vi. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded; and staff & parents of all children involved will be informed.
6. vii. We will work with the bully/bullies to change their behaviour.

## Appendix 1

### **Tackling Cyber-bullying**

Mobile, Internet and wireless technologies have increased the pace of communication and brought benefits to users worldwide; but their popularity provides increasing opportunities for misuse through 'cyber-bullying'. School staff, young people and parents have to be constantly vigilant and work together to prevent this form of bullying and tackle it whenever it occurs.

#### **What is cyber-bullying?**

Research commissioned by the Anti-Bullying Alliance from Goldsmiths College, University of London, identifies the following categories of cyber-bullying:

- Text message bullying
- Picture/video clip bullying
- Phone call bullying
- Email bullying
- Bullying through instant messaging
- Bullying via websites

#### **Who is most vulnerable?**

Because of the anonymity that new communications technologies offer, anyone with a mobile phone or internet connection can be a target for cyber-bullying. There is no safe haven for the victim of a cyber-bully. What's more, bullies can reach much larger numbers within a peer group than they can with conventional bullying, eg vindictive comments posted on a website can be seen by a large number, as can video clips sent by mobile phone.

#### **School Policy**

We have a Code of Practice which promotes safe internet etiquette.

Pupils at Henry Fawcett Primary School are not allowed to bring a mobile phone into school or take it with them on a school trip.

As part of the ICT curriculum pupils will be taught about safe internet etiquette and the risks of new communication technologies, the consequences of their misuse and how to use them safely.

All e-communications used on the school site are monitored.

We advise our pupils never to give out personal contact details online or post photographs of themselves on sites.

We advise our pupils that they should not respond to abusive emails, text messages or phone calls and should always tell an adult.

We will work with other outside agencies to manage cyber-bullying.

We will take action if a pupil is being cyber-bullied or is bullying someone else.