



Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls CE Primary School

Anti-Bullying Parents' Information Pack

Introduction

At present there is much national concern about bullying and how to prevent it. As part of our work to develop all children's social, emotional and behavioural skills, we are holding a special focus time when we will all be thinking about how to make sure that no one gets bullied in our school.

We would like to emphasise that this is not because we have any more bullying than any other school. It is a planned part of the programme that takes place every year at this time.

Aims of the School's Anti-Bullying Policy

Everyone at Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Primary School has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. Only if this is the case will all members of the school community have an equality of opportunity and be able to achieve their personal best. The School's Community Values have strong Anti-Bullying themes:

- We accept everyone
- We treat others, as we would like them to treat us
- We are peacemakers and we forgive others
- We are truthful and honest
- We value people above objects
- We respect our own and other people's property
- We try for our personal best
- We are patient, helpful and kind
- We are proud of our own and others' achievements
- We are good listeners

The School's Anti-Bullying Policy contains guidelines and procedures that demonstrate how the school's values are applied in practice to:

- reduce and resolve incidents of conflict between pupils
- reduce and resolve incidents of bullying
- promote an Anti-Bullying culture within the school.

Information about Bullying

In our school we aim to tackle bullying by trying to prevent it from happening in the first place and by tackling it consistently, fairly and effectively when it does. The activities that your child will do at school are part of this preventative work and will help all the children to understand what bullying is, how it feels and what to do if it happens to them or they see it happening.

In this school we believe that bullying is unkind behaviour (which can include physical hurting and leaving people out as well as stealing or damaging people's things and making fun of people or saying untrue things about them behind their back).

Not all unkind behaviour is bullying, however. The key characteristics that turn unkindness into bullying are:

- that it is repeated and goes on over time;
- that it is deliberate and not accidental;
- that it involves the person doing the bullying in having some sort of power over the person experiencing the bullying.

Most children both use and experience bullying behaviour at one time or another and, of course, all children can change their behaviour.

We know that there are three groups of children involved in any bullying that goes on: the child who gets bullied, the child or children doing the bullying, and the children who watch the bullying – the witnesses.

Questions?

If you would like to read the full Policy statement or have any questions regarding the School's Policy, please do not hesitate to contact **Graham Nagel-Smith** (Headteacher).

What to do to help your child

- When your child is feeling relaxed and open, make time to talk about friendships, social life, and what they like to do at playtime or lunchtime.
- Watch out for signs of changes in their attitude to school, frequent headaches or tummy aches, and unexpected and unusual anger or tears.
- Keep the channels of communication open but don't pressurise your child to tell you – let them take their time and use their own words.
- If your child tells you that they are unhappy because someone is unkind to them or bullying them, do listen carefully and make sure they understand that you care how they feel and take it seriously.
- Make sure that your child understands that there is nothing wrong with them and that you respect them for being brave enough to tell someone.
- Try not to suggest that your child becomes different from how they are, for example by being more assertive, or fighting back. They may feel that they are not good enough 'as they are' and this is not true. They need to know that it is the children doing the bullying who have to change their behaviour.
- Make an appointment to visit the school. We will take your concerns seriously, listen to what you have to say, support and help your child and act within our Anti-Bullying Policy. When we have found out about what has happened, we will tell you what we have found out and what we have done to help your child.