

SCHOOL ANTI BULLYING POLICY



Downlands Community School is an anti bullying school. It is basic to our philosophy that every person has the opportunity to realise his or her full potential. Anything that prevents this happening is dealt with in a concerned but determined manner. It is our belief that education should take place in a secure and caring environment. We believe that every member of the school has the right to come to school and learn without fear.

As a school, we have strategies for dealing with bullying, through our **Behaviour Policy** and discipline codes, our pastoral systems and the PSHE programme.

Definitions of Bullying

- Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, including aggression.
- It is often repeated over a period of time, but could also be a one off, serious incident.
- Victims often find it difficult to defend themselves.

It can take many forms, these include:

Verbal

name calling, insults and nasty remarks, including sexist, racist and homophobic comments.

Physical

hitting, kicking or taking/damaging a person's belongings.

Indirect

exclusion from social groups, spreading rumours or sending nasty computer or text messages.

How do we recognise it?

Pupils will sometimes confide in fellow pupils, family or staff. Staff observation of behaviour patterns in pupils is vital, particularly Form Tutors.

How do we deal with it?

Through the normal school discipline procedures, as outlined in the **Behaviour Policy**. Staff will inform Achievement Leaders, parents or senior staff as necessary.

Counselling is a very important part of the process for both victim and bully. We have a range of strategies that include working with Peer Mentors as well as staff.

In known or proven cases the school's Governors may become involved in more serious discipline procedures.

Booklets are available for both pupils and parents that include helpful advice.

How do we prevent it?

Across the curriculum, the school highlights respect for self and others. PSHE has a module on bullying in Year 7. Tutor Time and Assemblies are opportunities to encourage positive relationships. We also regularly ask all pupils if they have any concerns.

Prefects are assigned to Year 7 Tutor Groups to look after them when they first start at Downlands and the Peer Mentors organise Tutor Time activities so pupils get to know them.

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