

Anti-Bullying Policy

This page contains a summary of the revised Anti-Bullying Policy and its key messages; it also provides some practical advice and guidance.

We want everyone to understand that there is no place for bullying at Moulton School and that it will not be tolerated. Everyone at the school has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. Only if this is the case will all members of the school community thrive and be able to achieve to their maximum potential. Bullying of any sort prevents this from being able to happen and undermines the quality of life within the whole community. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent this happening and this policy outlines how we endeavour to make this possible at Moulton School.

Definitions of Bullying

- It is deliberately hurtful behaviour
- It is usually repeated, often over a period of time
- It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves as bullying involves an imbalance of power: the victim is weaker and less powerful than the bully or bullies

Bullying can take many forms but five main types are physical, verbal, emotional, racist and sexual.

Reporting Bullying

It is important that we create an atmosphere in the school where pupils who are being bullied, or others who know about a bullying situation, feel they will be listened to and taken seriously. Pupils can speak directly to their form tutor, Deputy Head of House or Head of House (or any other member of staff) or they can write their concerns on the pupil leaflet which is distributed to all Year 7 and 8 pupils and is available from House Offices, the Library and the Main School Office. There is provision for school members to report incidents anonymously through the "Worry Box" in the Tussler Library. Parents can, of course, telephone, e-mail or write to the school to raise any concerns they have.

Responding to Bullying: Procedures

The school will take the problem seriously, investigate the incident and take appropriate action. Parents of both the victim and the bully will be informed.

A full copy of the Anti-Bullying Policy is available from the school and it is also on the website.

Victims: Possible Signs of Bullying

Children may:

- Be frightened of walking to or from school
- Change their normal route
- Not want to go on the school bus
- Be reluctant to go to school
- Feel ill in the morning
- Begin truanting

- Begin doing poorly in their schoolwork
- Become withdrawn
- Have nightmares and cry in their sleep

How You Can Help Your Child

If you are worried that your child is being bullied, ask him or her directly. Children who are being bullied are often frightened to speak about what is happening so be prepared for your child to deny at first that there is anything wrong.

Don't promise to keep the bullying secret but reassure your child that you will help him/her sort out the problem.

Reassure the child that it is not his/her fault.

Don't confront the offending child or his/her parents yourself: work together with school staff.

Working with the school

We value our close partnership with parents and it is vital that we work closely in supporting any victim of bullying.

- Please do contact the school if you have any concerns or worries. We suggest the pupil's form tutor in the first instance—but you can also contact your child's Deputy Head /Head of House
- Your child may be reluctant for you to involve the school. We are sensitive to these concerns, yet we need to convince the victim that the bullying is unlikely to stop without some intervention. The school will try to ensure that s/he feels comfortable with the action taken.
- **A written account of an incident (incidents), specifying (if possible) times, dates, those involved and so on is very helpful.**

Some Final Points

We constantly seek to reinforce our message that bullying is not acceptable. We do this through Assemblies, PSE, posters and the Year and School Councils.

All Year 7 and 8 pupils are issued with a leaflet/reporting form giving them advice and guidance on how to deal with bullying.

We stress that being a bystander is not acceptable: bullying flourishes where blind eyes are turned to what is going on. Please, therefore, urge your child to notify a teacher (if need be anonymously) of any bullying that s/he is aware of.

We hope you find this leaflet of some help. There are some excellent websites which provide a lot of support materials for parents and children. The following are particularly helpful:

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying

www.bullying.co.uk

www.antibully.org.uk

The ChildLine telephone number for confidential advice is: 0800 1111