

Anti-Bullying Strategy

Adopted by: Abbotsmede Academy Council

Date: May 2018

Review date: May 2019

Signature of chair of the Academy Council: J. Smith

Signature of Headteacher: R. Howard

Ethos and values

At Lime Academy Abbotsmede our policies and procedures along with daily systems and structures reflect our strong ethos of 'no harm to others'.

In line with this ethos, pupils are taught

- That all bullying, of any sort, is unacceptable.
- How to seek support if they feel they are being bullied.
- What to do if they think another pupil may be being bullied.

What is bullying?

Bullying involves an imbalance of power, is pre-meditated and usually forms a pattern of behaviour.

Bullying is therefore:

- Deliberately upsetting
- Recurring, often over a period of time
- Difficult to stand up against

It can take many forms but the main types are:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking another's belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Cyber – using social media, emails, texts and phone calls to harass another person or to spread rumours
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours

Strategies used for prevention of bullying at Abbotsmede

The behaviour policy outlines how our values are used to promote positive behaviour and how pupils are rewarded for displaying these values. It also outlines the sanctions that should be used for breaches of the school rules.

Pupils are taught about bullying and how to deal with it through the following SMSC opportunities:

- Assemblies by staff
- PSHE lessons
- E-Safety lessons
- Anti-Bullying Weeks
- NSPCC assemblies and workshops

Raising Concerns

Pupils are taught that if they are worried that they or somebody else is being bullied they should tell a member of staff. Sometimes, children can be anxious about coming forward. In order to support children in sharing their concerns the following strategies are used:

- A Buddy system for children who need it - buddies look out for their younger peers at play and lunch times
- Worry boxes in each classroom – pupils can put a note in the worry box if they feel uncomfortable telling their teacher something verbally
- School Council – regularly meet to discuss how the school can be improved, with the opportunity to raise concerns

Parents may also raise concerns if they are concerned by changes in behaviour at home. If a parent wishes to raise a concern they should arrange an appointment with the class teacher/head of year in the first instance. Parents should avoid talking to other pupils/parents directly and should instead direct their concerns to the academy.

Responding to incidents when they occur

All reports will be taken seriously and will be followed up by the class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Often, concerns that have been raised may require further investigation, which may include talking to other adults who work closely with the children involved or interviewing the pupils involved. Where bullying is of a racist nature, we will report this to the Local Education Authority using the Racist Incident Report Form.

Where it is found that bullying has occurred/is occurring the following strategies may be adopted to support the child and prevent further bullying:

- Providing the child with a buddy
- Reassure the child and ask them to share any further incidents straight away
- Plan additional PSHE Time lessons about the effects of bullying
- Provide a key worker to discuss any problems in the future
- Use appropriate sanctions in line with the behaviour policy as consequences
- Meet with parents
- Arrange a time for a follow-up meeting with parents to discuss how the child has been since the disclosure was made
- Offer a place in lunch time club as an alternative to playing on the playground

Bullying outside the school premises

The head teacher may sanction a pupil for their behaviour beyond the school gates in situations where:

- The pupil is taking part in an organised school trip or activity
- The pupil is travelling to or from school
- The pupil is wearing their uniform

Misbehaviour at any time outside of school hours will be sanctioned (including exclusion where necessary) if it:

- Poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public
- Could adversely affect the reputation of the school
- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school

Incidents of misbehaviour including bullying and cyber-bullying, which take place outside the school gates will be fully investigated and appropriate sanctions will be taken.