

## **Anti Bullying Policy Policy Statement**

Nazareth House Primary School upholds the belief that every child has the right to be treated with respect and has the right to feel safe and valued in school.

Any behaviour contrary to those rights will be viewed with the utmost seriousness and recognition given to the potential damaging and destructive consequences, which may result from bullying behaviour, both for the victim and for the perpetrator.

The rights of all children will be supported and promoted within the school through the active encouragement of positive behaviour by pupils and staff alike.

Bullying is defined as :- Any aggressive behaviour, deliberately intended to cause hurt to another individual, whether physical, verbal, or indirect, and usually persistent in nature. It is normally an abuse of power and intended to intimidate or dominate another.

Children will be encouraged to inform the school if their rights have been violated.

The school undertakes to record, investigate, and act on every reported incident of bullying.

Support from parents will be sought in promoting the values of tolerance and helpfulness in their children.

Parents will be encouraged to be alert for signs of a child being bullied and use the established procedure to have any concerns investigated.

## Procedure for Parents

If your child tells you that he/she is being bullied at school, listen carefully to what the child has to say. Please try to remain calm and use gentle questioning to get as clear a picture of the situation as you can.

Ask yourself if this is just a 'falling out' between children, which can happen often, or if it is a case of real bullying as defined in the policy statement.

If you are convinced that *your* child is being bullied, contact the school without delay and arrange to meet with the Principal. If your child feels uncomfortable about you visiting the school, a home visit by the school's EWO might be appropriate.

Sometimes a child who is being subjected to bullying can think that there must be something wrong with him/her. Please *try* to reassure the child that the problem lies with the bully and not with the victim.

After the allegation has been properly investigated you will be informed of the outcome. Please allow the school the time and space to do this.

Disputes that arise in school can sometimes have their origins outside and spill over into the school, or vice versa. It is only incidents that happen in school that can be responded to. Behaviour outside of school is the responsibility of parents, but the school does demand that pupils wearing the school uniform conduct themselves in a dignified manner at all times in order to uphold the good name of the school.

## Children

Bullying can happen to anyone - it's what is done about it that makes the difference.

*Bullying can be:*

- Name calling, teasing or making you feel uncomfortable
- Making things up to get you in trouble
- Hitting, pinching, pushing etc.
- Taking things from you, including stealing your money or lunch
- Damaging your belongings
- Taking your friends away from you
- Excluding you
- Telling lies about you and making threats

*If you are being bullied:*

- Try to look confident, even if you don't feel it
- Don't let a bully know you are upset
- Try to stay in safe areas at school with other people you trust
- If you see someone on their own, make friends with them.

**Always tell someone;** a friend, a teacher, a prefect, your parents.

It won't stop until you do.

It is not telling tales and you won't get into trouble.

If you can't talk about it write a note. You will be listened to and things will change.

Bullies are usually unhappy people. By doing something about your bullying problem you could be helping them too and you may stop them from bullying other people.

## **School Strategies to prevent Bullying.**

Nazareth House P.S. seeks to create an atmosphere of tolerance and respect where bullying behaviour is abhorrent to our ethos and where caring and sharing is utmost in our daily routines.

This will be accomplished through

- Insistence on treating all the school community well, and by modelling good practice in our dealings with the children.
- Children and adults will be encouraged to "say Sorry" and to rectify any situations where people have felt threatened, hurt or afraid.
- Good, caring behaviour will be celebrated throughout the school.
- Children will be helped to understand how to combat bullying in a variety of ways appropriate to their age and understanding. These strategies will include making friends, using humour, walking away, tell a friend/adult and avoidance of dangerous situations and times.

Nazareth House P.S. will employ the "No Blame" approach to resolving bullying issues whenever appropriate. (see attached)