

- reassure the child being bullied that it is not his/her fault
- offer concrete advice and help to the victim
- make it plain to the perpetrator that the incident is totally unacceptable
- take action designed to resolve any conflict
- record the incident in the school's Behaviour Incident Book and notify the Headteacher
- take action designed to change the behaviour of the perpetrator and raise awareness of the impact of his/her behaviour

Dealing with bullying incidents is not always easy. It can take time to help those who are being bullied and those who are bullying others.

#### Working with parents or carers

Parents or carers of the victim and of the perpetrator will be notified immediately in the case of a serious incident or when there are a number of reported incidents of less serious bullying behaviour over a period of time.

On these occasions, parents/carers will be invited into school to discuss the incidents and agree any further action that needs to be taken. This may take the form of programmes of support and detailed strategies of intervention for individual pupils which may include help from outside agencies such as the East Sussex Anti-Bullying Team.

Parents or carers are encouraged to contact the Headteacher should they have any concerns or worries about bullying.

A full copy of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available from the School Office together with information and advice to parents issued by the East Sussex Anti-Bullying Team.

Maynards Green Community Primary School

# Bullying



## Dealing with bullying

- a parental guide to the school's Anti-Bullying Policy

## Introduction

Children learn best when they feel safe and happy. Occasionally children may be bullied at school, in the street or at home. The effects of bullying can be serious, upsetting and long lasting.



Bullying is not tolerated at Maynards Green School and great importance is given to respecting the rights of everyone within the school community. Any reported incident of bullying will be responded to promptly and firmly. The school climate fosters openness to allegations of bullying and pupils know they will be listened to and know where and how to seek help.

The aim of this leaflet is to provide information to parents or carers about bullying, how the school promotes anti-bullying and how it deals with incidents of bullying behaviours.

## What is bullying?

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Bullying can take many forms:-

- physical (for example hitting, kicking, stealing)
- verbal (for example name-calling, hurtful remarks)
- indirect (for example by spreading rumours, stopping someone from joining a social group)
- cyberbullying (for example bullying by text, e-mail or on the internet)



## Effective approaches to prevent bullying

Prevention is the most important aspect of the school's approach to any kind of bullying. Listening to children and acting upon what they say, is key to the effectiveness of the school's approach. The school seeks to prevent bullying through a range of strategies such as:-

- positive behaviours are promoted through the school's Behaviour Policy
- making sure that children know that inappropriate /unacceptable behaviour is managed firmly, fairly and consistently
- regularly promoting the Anti-Bullying Policy amongst children and giving children opportunities to openly discuss general bullying issues
- ensuring that teachers regularly discuss bullying. In this way, circle-time, role-play, video materials are used to raise awareness of bullying issues. In addition, confidential 'Worry Boxes' are placed in some of the class rooms which, together with a pupil 'Suggestion Box', provide valuable 'listening posts' for staff
- ensuring that staff are watchful at all times (and in all areas of the school) and communicate or report any bullying issues
- encouraging children to use the Peer Mediation Service which can help children resolve conflict during playground times
- encouraging children to:-
  - act in a friendly way and look after each other
  - work co-operatively in group situations
  - play co-operatively at break-times
  - tell an adult if they think bullying is taking place
  - tell an adult if they are being bullied



## School procedures for dealing with incidents of bullying

Any child who is bullied, or who witnesses bullying, should inform an adult (or an older child whom they trust) immediately.

Any staff member who witnesses bullying, or who is informed of an incident of bullying, will:-

- treat the incident or report seriously
- keep the child being bullied safe
- investigate the incident with each pupil - alone in the first instance