
Glapton primary and Nursery school

Anti-Bullying Policy

Operative from January 2004

Rationale

Everyone at Glapton Primary School has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. Only if this is the case will all members of the school community be able to achieve to their maximum potential. Bullying of any sort prevents this being able to happen and prevents equality of opportunity. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent this happening and this policy contains guidelines to support this ethos.

Where bullying exists the victims must feel confident to activate the anti-bullying systems within the school to end the bullying. It is our aim to challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for bullied pupils and help build an anti-bullying ethos in the school.

This document outlines how we make this possible at Glapton School.

Definitions of Bullying

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time, making it difficult for the person concerned to defend himself or herself. This can take the form of name-calling, violence, threatened violence, isolation, ridicule or indirect action such as spreading unpleasant stories about someone.

The school works hard to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and simply "falling out".

Actions to Tackle Bullying

Prevention is better than cure so at Glapton School we try to be vigilant for signs of bullying and always take reports of incidents seriously. We will use the curriculum whenever possible to reinforce the ethos of the school and help pupils to develop strategies to combat bullying-type behaviour.

Pupils are told that they must report any incidence of bullying to an adult within school, and that when another pupil tells them that they are being bullied or if they see bullying taking place it is their responsibility to report their knowledge to a member of staff. There is provision for school members to report incidents anonymously through classroom worry boxes and "Thought Books".

All reported incidents of bullying will be investigated and taken seriously by staff members. In order to ensure effective monitoring of such occurrences, and to facilitate co-ordinated action, all proven incidences of bullying should be reported to the Headteacher. If bullying includes racist abuse then it should be recorded in the Racial Incident Book.

Upon discovery of an incident of bullying, we will discuss with the children the issues appropriate to the incident and to their age and level of understanding. If the incident is not too serious, a problem-solving approach may help. The adult will try to remain neutral and deliberately avoid direct, closed questioning which may be interpreted as accusatory or interrogational in style. Each pupil must be given an opportunity to talk and the discussion should remain focused on finding a solution to the problem and stopping the bullying recurring.

There are various strategies that can be applied if more than one pupil is involved in bullying another. Role-play and other drama techniques can be used as well as Circle Time. If held regularly, this can be an effective way of sharing information and provide a forum for discussing important issues such as equal rights, relationships, justice and acceptable behaviour. It can also be used just within the affected group to confront bullying that already exists.

Victims who are worried about openly discussing an incident when the aggressors are present (e.g. taunting during a lesson) can be encouraged to go to the teacher with a piece of work, using this as a reason to speak to the teacher. Victims need to feel secure in the knowledge that assertive behaviour, "Thought Books" and even walking away can be effective ways of dealing with bullying. We have set up a buddy system, and peer counseling with pupils who already hold a position of responsibility, such as our School Council members. This is used to support victims and also aggressors in beneficial ways.

Parental Involvement

The parents of bullies and their victims will usually be informed of an incident and the action that has taken place and asked to support strategies proposed to tackle the problem. The bully will also be reminded of the possible consequences of bullying and the sanctions for repeated incidents will be clearly explained to him/her. (Persistent bullies may be excluded from school).

Keeping information from the school, or from their parents, will never help a problem to be solved, and will prolong the period a victim has to suffer. Where necessary we have and will call on outside resources such as the Behaviour Support Service to support our action. This policy is seen as an integral part of our Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

Discussed with Staff January 2004

Agreed with Governors January 2004

Bullying Incident Report Form

Name of Pupil

Year Group

Date

Details of incident

Incident reported to

Action taken

Signed by

Pupil

Class teacher
