

# Westgate Primary School

- A Place of Excellence -



‘Our anti - bullying  
booklet’

September 2012

Dear Parents and Carers

We have written this booklet to enable home and school to work together to help each child consider others and to make our school a fair and safe place for all children.

We would ask you to read the section on 'How you can help' as we believe that it is essential that parents support what we are trying to do in school.

We have a more detailed Behaviour Policy in school which parents are welcome to read.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B H P Curtis  
Head Teacher

## **Our Anti-Bullying Policy**

Bullying both verbal and physical will not be tolerated in our school. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent it happening and this policy contains guidelines for all members of our school community.

In our school children have a right to feel welcome, safe and happy. In our school we will not tolerate any unkind actions or remarks even if these were not intended to hurt.

### **Definition:**

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated often over a period of time, making it difficult for the person concerned to defend themselves.

Bullying can take many forms. The three main types are:-

- physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal – name calling, insulting or racist remarks
- indirect – spreading unpleasant stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups.

Although resolving conflict by resorting to fighting is not acceptable, it is not bullying if two pupils of equal power and strength fight or quarrel.

### **Our Aims:**

- We aim to prevent bullying at Westgate Primary School
- We aim to raise pupils awareness of bullying behaviour and the school's anti-bullying policy
- We aim to challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for bullied pupils and help build an anti-bullying ethos in our school
- We aim to improve the play facilities so that we can provide and interesting and stimulating environment for pupils alongside quiet seating areas that can be easily supervised.

**Reasons for being a victim of bullying may be: -**

- Race / gender / background
- New child in school
- Child with family crisis
- Disability
- Timid children who may be on the edge or outside a group

Bullies make life miserable for many children.

**Reasons for being a bully may be: -**

- A child who is a victim of violence
- A child who is bullied at home
- A child who enjoys power and creating fear
- A child who is not allowed to show feelings
- A child copying behaviour seen at home or on the TV
- A child who is unhappy
- A child who is insecure (a coward at heart)
- A child who is self hating.

It occurs in children from all backgrounds, cultures, races, gender, from Nursery to 6<sup>th</sup> Form and adults.

**Our Anti-Bullying Campaign**

Prevention is better than cure so at Westgate Primary School we will:

- Be vigilant for signs of bullying
- Always take reports of bullying seriously and investigate them thoroughly.

Children will be encouraged to report all incidents of bullying to an adult. These will then be referred to the class teacher.

We use the curriculum to increase children's awareness of bullying and to help them to develop strategies to combat it. We use discussion and role-play to explore issues related to bullying and to give individual children confidence to deal with 'bullying'.

If the incident is not too serious, a 'problem solving' approach is implemented. We try to remain neutral and deliberately avoid direct, closed questions that might be perceived as accusatory or interrogational in style. We make sure each pupil has an opportunity to talk and keep the discussion focused on finding a solution to the personal disagreement, and also discuss with him or her how proposals will be put into action. A follow-up meeting with the pupils illustrates whether their solution has been effective or not.

We keep a record of incidents – date – time – place names of children involved and their accounts of what happened. Older children may be able to write these themselves.

Serious incidents are reported to the Head Teacher or a member of the Strategic Leadership Team.

In very serious cases, the 'bully' will find themselves having fixed term exclusion.

### **How can you, the parents help?**

1. Please read through this booklet with your child and support our school when necessary.
2. Please do not tell your child to retaliate by hitting back or they will get into trouble as well.
3. Do tell us if your child becomes worried by anything in school before it becomes a problem.

4. Please do not get involved in your child's arguments – allow us to deal with it – do not ring or try to make contact with the other child or their parents. It only makes matters worse. We always investigate any concerns – please tell us **BUT** remember that there are always two sides to every story.
5. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and **ARRIVES AT SCHOOL ON TIME**. The start of the day is **8.55am**. Please make sure you pick up your child on time at the end of the day at **3.15pm**. It is unsettling if you are late and this might give cause for others to make negative comments towards your child.
6. Be positive and praise your child for the things they achieve, however small.
7. Make sure that your child has the things they need in school especially PE kit, reading folder and contact/homework book. Again this can give cause for negative comments.
8. Finally, please do read the newsletter and other information that comes home from school so that you can talk to your child about what's going on.

#### Working in partnership together

