Anti-Bullying Strategy

BOVINGTON
AN ASPIRATIONS ACADEMY

Promoting Friendship and Anti-Bullying Strategies

Bullying is defined as:
'Deliberately hurtful behaviour repeated over a period of time, which may be verbal (including racism and homophobic), physical, social or psychological.'

We support pupils to understand the difference between bullying and other hurtful behaviour by exploring the definition with them. We follow national awareness days and offer pupils a range of activities to promote social inclusion. Whole class targets are sometimes related to demonstrating social skills through our PSHE curriculum. We reinforce positive behaviour through rewards outlined above.

Pupils are encouraged through a range of systems to talk about bullying:

- Circle time
- Buddies
- Access to the Pastoral Team
- Reporting bullying to staff, including when witnessing bullying
- "Worry Box" or other systems to pass messages
- A group of Year 5 pupils are trained as Kindness Ambassadors to support peers in the playground when unkind behaviour has occurred

Staff are responsible for:

- helping children understand and define what bullying is
- modelling by their own behaviour how to address inappropriate behaviour through dialogue and support from others.
- taking bullying seriously and challenging bullying as antisocial reporting incidents through the appropriate form
- asking for advice on how to support a child

Parents can play a part by:

- informing the school if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other children;
- trying to establish the facts and keeping an open mind;
- talking about the problems of bullying with their child.

Important information to ask the child:

- who has been bullying them, or if they witnessed an incident?
- How long has this been going on?
- How many times has this happened to them?
- Has anyone seen this happen? If so, who?
- Have they told anyone else about this before?
- Have they done anything unhelpful that has not helped the situation?

Important information about bullying

- As pupils grow older, the nature of bullying changes and can become more subtle and include the use of social media/text messaging.
- Most bullying is not physical or direct. Children identify emotional and social forms of bullying as most hurtful.
- Bullying exists in all ages, social, ethnic and gender groups and in both urban and rural settings.
- Most bullying is between children of the same ages.
- Those who witness bullying are as deeply affected as those who are directly bullied. Children follow the example. If home life does not offer a secure and safe environment and they frequently see aggressive behaviour between adults and towards themselves, they will tend to adopt aggressive behaviour patterns.