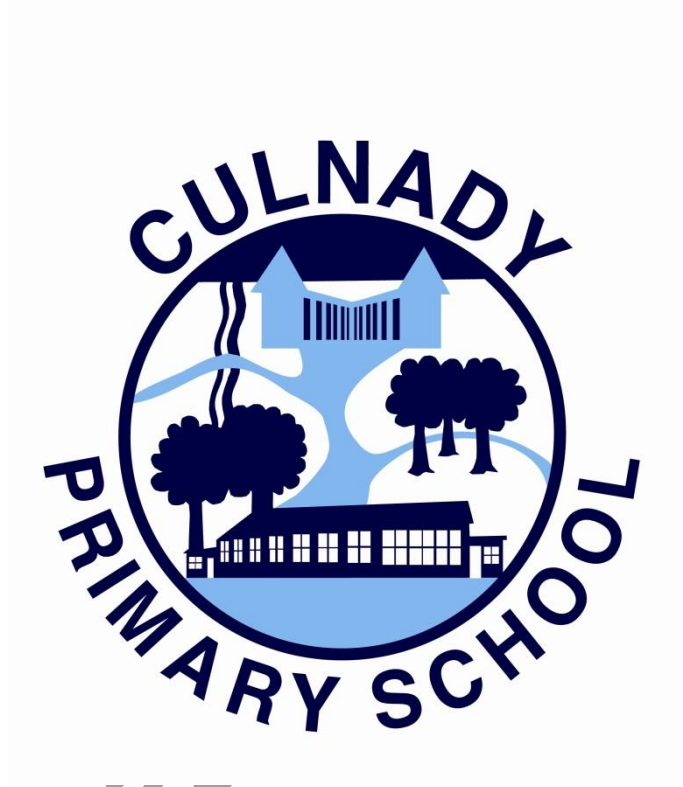


CULNADY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the victim to defend him/herself. It can happen in any situation and in many forms but the four main types are:

- Physical – e.g. hitting, kicking, spitting, theft or damage to belongings
- Verbal – e.g. threats or name-calling, including sectarian, homophobic or racist name-calling
- Indirect – e.g. spreading rumours or excluding someone from social groups
- Test/Internet Bullying – e.g. sending anonymous texts, making threats of violence, name calling, giving out personal information, sending frightening or obscene images

THE SCHOOL'S VIEW:

The school is completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate it. It is entirely contrary to the values and principles we work and live by. All members of the school community have a right to work in a secure and caring environment. They also have a responsibility to contribute, in whatever way they can, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF:

Our staff will:

- Foster in our pupils self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others
- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils
- Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is bullied and to the bully, and the importance of telling a teacher about bullying when it happens
- Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying
- Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them
- Report suspected cases of bullying to Miss J Brown our Designated Teacher for Child Protection/Head of Pastoral Care or Miss M Gibson, Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying, and report back promptly and fully on the action which has been taken
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUPILS:

We expect our pupils to:-

- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity
- Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so

- Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS:

We ask our parents to **support** their children and the school by:-

- Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying
- Advising their children to report any bullying to Miss J Brown or Miss M Gibson, and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other pupils
- Advising their children not to retaliate violently to any form of bullying
- Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken
- Keeping a written record of any reported instances of bullying
- Informing the school of any suspected bullying, even if their children are not involved
- Co-operating with the school, if their children are accused of bullying, try to ascertain the truth, and point out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves
- Ensuring that mobile phones are not brought into school
- Supervising internet access

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL:

Everyone should work together to combat and, hopefully in time, to eradicate bullying

In situations where bullying is persistent the school will undertake to apply the following procedure

- Investigate thoroughly any reported or suspected instances of bullying
- Listen to, consult, protect and support the victims at all times
- Take all necessary steps to identify those responsible, deploy appropriate sanctions and give them help to change their behaviour
- Report back, fully and promptly, to any parent who has raised with the school a concern about bullying
- In exceptional circumstances, the school will invoke Child Protection procedures when strategies fail to prevent persistent bullying
- The Principal has the right to suspend a pupil, for a period of time, and the Board of Governors can, after liaising with appropriate agencies expel a pupil from the school. This is in accordance with NEELB Scheme for the Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils (1998)

This policy will be related closely to and integrated with our Safe Guarding/Child Protection Policy and Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy.

February 2010

Culnady Primary