



PIKEMERE SCHOOL

BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY

At Pikemere Primary School we respect every child's need for, and rights to, an environment where safety, security, praise, recognition and opportunity for taking responsibility are available. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our school. Our bullying prevention policy ensures that all our children can learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

What bullying is and isn't

Bullying is when the same student is repeatedly and deliberately harmed. The victim finds it difficult to defend him or herself against the perpetrator/s. The victim is the same student who is subjected over and over again to mean and hurtful actions by others. The purpose of bullying is to hurt, harm and cause distress. A victim may be physically weak, timid or might be new to a class with no circle of friends to support him or her. Children who do not share similar characteristics with their peers, for example their race and culture, their sexuality or their educational ability, can also be victimised through bullying.

Sometimes children hurt each other by accident. A fight or falling out between two children of equal strength and status is not bullying. When such incidents arise the school will deal with these in line with our behaviour policy.

What do we know about bullying?

Bullying harms children and is not 'a right of passage' to adulthood. Research shows that bullying in childhood diminishes the victims' ability to cope in difficult situations. This is why at Pikemere, we take extensive measures to both prevent and tackle all forms of bullying.

Bullying can be either:

Direct – physical, name calling, teasing, mocking

Indirect – spreading rumours, negatively influencing the way others think about a victim, cyberbullying

A bullying situation doesn't just involve a bully and a victim. 'Bystanders' to bullying can either join in with the bullying (assistants and reinforcers) or stand on the side-line and do nothing (silent approvers).

Prevention

At Pikemere we use the KiVa programme to help to prevent all forms of bullying. The programme was developed in Finland and has been used in the UK since 2012. The programme has been shown in large scale studies to be highly effective in reducing bullying in schools.

The KiVa 'curriculum' is taught to all classes in Key Stage 2 (years 3-6). Each lesson lasts for approximately 45 minutes and is delivered once a month covering 10 lessons over the academic year. During lessons the children learn about respecting others, how to function in a group and how to help someone who is being bullied. The lessons are complimented by the KiVa computer game where children go into a virtual school and practice anti-bullying actions. The goal of the curriculum work is to educate students about their role in stopping bullying. Instead of being 'silent approvers' or 'assistants to the bully', children start to



support the victimised child, developing a shared sense of responsibility within the class. At the end of each lesson, each class develop and agree on an anti-bullying class rule.

Tackling bullying incidents

Pikemere has a dedicated task force to tackle bullying, the 'KiVa Team'. The team consists of three adults in school who have been specially trained to deal with bullying incidents. When a parent or student reports a case of bullying the KiVa Team will decide if it is bullying or a conflict or fight between children. All cases that fulfil the criteria for bullying are dealt with in a systematic way by the KiVa Team and all children involved will be spoken to individually. After this, all those children who were involved in the bullying (not the victim) meet together as a group where they agree on how they will change their behaviour. Support for the victim is also identified during their meeting with the KiVa Team. Follow up discussions with all students take place after an agreed amount of time to make sure that the situation is improving for the victim.

All adults at the school have received basic awareness training about bullying and will report any concerns to the KiVa Team.

Parents of all those involved in a bullying situation are notified by the KiVa Team. However, discussions are primarily held between adults at the school and the children.

Monitoring bullying in our school

During the latter part of the summer term all children in years 3-6 have the opportunity to complete an online questionnaire or survey about bullying. The survey is anonymous and the results provide data on each year group which helps the school to get an overall picture of bullying and victimisation at the school. We then use this data to track changes year on year and to inform our prevention work.

Confirmed cases of bullying are reported back to the Governing Body on a termly basis with a summary of actions taken by the KiVa Team. Again, this helps the school monitor the effectiveness of our work in this area of safeguarding.

Information and advice for parents

For more detailed information about bullying and strategies for supporting your child, please see the following webpage:

<http://www.kivaprogram.net/parents/>

There is also information about national support organisations on the following website:

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/children_and_families/family_information_service/bullying.aspx

Date Agreed: 08/05/2019

Signed: *E. A. Martindale*

Chair of Governors

Signed: *S. L. Gow*

Headteacher

SENDCO: Claire Beresford

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