

ILCHESTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Anti-Bullying Policy

Reviewed June 2018		N J Heath	Headteacher	Review June 2021
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Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 recognises the impact of “peer on peer abuse”; this often takes the form of bullying behaviour. At Ilchester we take all allegations of bullying seriously and seek to thoroughly investigate any allegations so as to take whatever remedial measures are necessary.

The best way to counter incidents of bullying is to foster empathy with the feelings of others, in particular with the feelings of those being bullied. As a school we promote a collective responsibility where children are encouraged to stand up for what is right so as to make bullying behaviour socially unacceptable within our community.

Whilst action must be taken against children who bully, negative measures alone are likely to promote resentment, and aggravate rather than solve the problem. Therefore, in addition to dealing appropriately with bullying incidents, our school seeks to help children understand the impact of bullying behaviour on others.

The school definition of bullying is:

Bullying is a repeated, deliberate act, which causes distress to another child. This includes ‘cyber-bullying’: bullying through social media or electronic devices.

The school believes that:

Every pupil has a right to enjoy their learning and leisure free from intimidation. The school will not tolerate unkind actions or remarks.

What can parents do?

If you have established that your child is being bullied you should:

- Assure the child that you will do something to help.
- **Contact the school. Please do not use social media to voice your concerns; please let the school investigate allegations.** Normally the first point of contact should be the class teacher. In addition to talking to the class teacher, **please put your concerns in writing**. This will allow the teacher time to reflect on and follow up any issues raised. The class teacher will inform the Head and action will be taken. The school will inform you of the action taken within, where possible, 24 hours. If you feel the school has not dealt with the situation, work with us to find a solution. If you still feel issues are not being properly resolved, contact a school governor.
- Keep a diary of incidents with names, places and times.
- Be realistic in your expectations of what school can achieve. A situation that has existed for some time will take time to resolve.
- If you suspect your child of bullying, talk to them and try to find out why they are behaving in this way.

What can children do?

- Children should be told: to TELL if they are bullied, tell a Lunchtime Supervisor, the Teacher, a Teaching Assistant, a Parent, or the Headteacher.
- To try to get friends to help them. Even one other child telling the instigator to GO AWAY can be effective.
- Children should be told to support each other by reporting all acts of bullying.
- Children should be taught not to look on but to report incidents of bullying.

What can the school do?

Teach children that bullying is wrong. Teach children about the impact of 'banter' and 'just having a laugh'.

Through a carefully planned programme of PSHE including initiatives such as anti-bullying week and by responding to incidents, the school will give a clear and consistent message that bullying will not be tolerated.

Through the Somerset EBYTES programme promote safe use of the internet.

Through parent workshops and mail-drops, support parents with keeping their children safe online.

Establish good systems of communication between members of staff so that concerns are passed on. Continue these systems of communication to include transition of vulnerable pupils to Secondary School.

Investigate promptly and thoroughly any allegation of bullying through this policy and procedures.

How the school deals with bullying

The flow chart on page 5 illustrates how the school deals with incidences of bullying.

Initial meetings are held with both the bullied child and the child accused of bullying. A meeting with both children together might at this stage be appropriate.

Parents of both children will be informed at this stage regardless of whether the allegations are founded. Should there appear to be a case of bullying, parents are asked to meet with relevant staff at school.

In addition to appropriate sanctions for bullying behaviour in line with the school behaviour policy, the reasons why a child is bullying are explored.

A course of action is agreed to help both the child being bullied and the child who is bullying. These might include ELSA (Emotional Literacy) support for either child, individual work, group sessions or work with outside agencies.

The effects of any agreed actions are carefully monitored.

Meetings with both children and, where relevant with parents, are held to review progress.

If the bullying behaviour has continued or been transferred to another child then a further course of action is agreed.

Once an incident has been resolved, staff continue to informally monitor the situation.

Flow chart to show school procedures for dealing with bullying

