

PARENTS' INFORMATION SHEET- ANTI-BULLYING

Is it bullying?

It is if on more than one occasion individuals or groups are:

- calling your child names;
- teasing, taunting and insulting your child;
- threatening your child;
- pressuring your child to give someone money or possessions;
- hitting, kicking, pushing, spitting at your child;
- damaging your child's possessions;
- spreading rumours about your child or your family;
- intimidating, isolating or excluding your child from a group;
- using text, email or web space to write or say hurtful things about your child (cyber bullying).

It is bullying if your child feels hurt because of things said about his/her ethnic background, religious faith, gender, disability, special educational need, appearance or issues in your family or of a homophobic or sexist nature.

Although possibly distressing to parents, it is not bullying when children fall out and argue. In these situations, the school will respond to deal with unhappy, angry or worried children and welcomes support from parents.

What should you do if your child is being bullied?

Talk to the school staff about the bullying. The first point of contact to report concerns about bullying is to your child's class teacher.

- It will help to sort out what action to take if you can bear in mind that the teacher may have no idea that your child is being bullied or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident.
- Be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened; give dates, places and names of other students involved.
- Make a note of what action the school intends to take.
- Ask if there is anything you can do to help your child.
- Stay in touch with the school. Let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue.

What will the school do?

The School does not tolerate bullying. This is what we do about bullying. We will:

- work to make sure that the person being bullied feels safe;
- work to stop the bullying happening again;
- provide support to the person being bullied;
- take actions to ensure that the person doing the bullying learns not to harm others;
- discuss any problems with the parents of any children involved.

Parents, who feel their concerns are not being addressed appropriately by the class teacher should make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Principal.