

**Aragon Primary School**

*'To be the best we can be.'*



## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

**January 2016**

The school adheres to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its principles. In working towards becoming a Rights Respecting School the values and language of the Convention are central to the school ethos. This policy supports these articles from the Convention;

**Article 3 (best interest of the child)**

The best interest of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children.

**Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)**

Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously.

**Article 16 (right to privacy)**

Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private family and home life.

**Article 28 (right to education)**

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's human dignity.

## **Aragon Primary School**

This policy has been developed and implemented in consultation with the whole school community, including pupils, parents / carers, staff, governors and partner agencies.

### **Rationale:**

*'We want our school to be a safe, happy and enjoyable place'. \**

Aragon Primary school promotes values which reject bullying behaviour and promotes co-operative behaviour. Tackling bullying matters. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff. This policy links with our policies on School Improvement, Equality and Diversity, Teaching and Learning, Behaviour and Safeguarding.

### **Statement of Intent**

This policy is in line with Government guidelines and their 'Safe to Learn' guidance.

#### **For pupils who experience bullying:**

- They are heard
- They know how to report bullying and get help
- They are confident in the school's ability to deal with the bullying
- Steps are taken to help them feel safe again
- They are helped to rebuild confidence and resilience
- They know how they can get support from others

#### **For pupils who engage in bullying behaviour:**

- Sanctions and learning programmes hold them to account for their behaviour and help them to face up to the harm they have caused
  - They learn to behave in ways that do not cause harm in the future because they have developed their emotional skills and knowledge
- They learn how they can take steps to repair the harm they have caused

### **For schools:**

- The whole-school community is clear about the anti-bullying stance the school takes
- Pupils, as well as staff and other members of the school, are fully engaged in developing and reviewing anti-bullying work in the school
- Every chance is taken to celebrate the success of anti-bullying work
- All pupils are clear about the roles they can take in preventing bullying, including the role of bystanders

### **For headteachers, governors and other school staff:**

- They develop whole-school policies that meet the law and school-inspection requirements
- They promote a school climate where bullying and violence are not tolerated and cannot flourish
- They continually develop best practice based on knowledge of what works
- There is a review of the school anti-bullying policy every two years and, as a result, the policy and procedures are updated as necessary
- Curriculum opportunities are used to address bullying
- Pupil-support systems are in place to prevent and respond to bullying
- They have addressed school-site issues and promoted safe play areas
- All staff take part in relevant professional development, and are clear about their roles and responsibilities in preventing and responding to bullying
- All staff are aware of the importance of modelling positive relationships
- They work in partnership with parents, other schools and with children's services and community partners to promote safe communities

### **For Parents AND Carers:**

- They are clear that the school does not tolerate bullying
- They are aware of procedures to use if they are concerned their child is being bullied or does not feel safe to learn, including the school's complaints procedure
- They have confidence that the school will take any complaint about bullying seriously and investigate/resolve as necessary, and that the

school systems will deal with the bullying in a way that protects their child

### **What is Bullying?**

Bullying, as defined by the anti-bullying alliance is:

1. **It does not just happen once**- it goes on over time and happens again and again - it is repeated.
2. **It is deliberate** - hurting someone on purpose - it is not accidentally hurting someone.
3. **It is unfair** - the person doing the bullying is stronger or more powerful (or there are more of them), and, even if they are enjoying it, the person they are bullying is not.

### **Types of Bullying Behaviour:**

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Extortion - demanding money / goods with threats
- Cyber - internet, email and internet chat room misuse; threats using mobile phones, text messaging and calls; misuse of associated technology e.g. camera and video; facilities including those on mobile phones
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality

### **Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?**

- Everyone has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everyone has the right to feel happy and safe.
- No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Bullies need to learn different ways of behaving.

*Bullying is unacceptable. Our school will respond promptly and effectively to reported incidents of bullying.*

Bullying can take place between pupils, between pupils and staff, or between staff; between parents/carers or by parents/carers to staff; by individuals or groups; face-to-face, indirectly or using a range of cyberbullying methods.

### **Objectives of this Policy**

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is and reporting procedures.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

### **Preventing Bullying**

We foster a clear understanding that bullying, in any form, is unacceptable. This can be done by:

- Fostering attitudes that support a safe and happy environment, with consequent positive relationships that have an impact on learning and achievement.
- The regular praise of positive and supportive behaviour by all staff.
- Ensuring any incidents are treated seriously and dealt with immediately.
- Holding a 'Friendship Week' during 'National Anti-Bullying Week' to reinforce positive behaviour.

### **Signs and Symptoms and What to Do if Your Child is Being Bullied**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that she or he is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts self-harm or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing'
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)

- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone

These signs and behaviours could also indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

### **For Parents**

#### **What to do if your child has been bullied:**

- Talk calmly with your child about his/her experience
- Make a note of what your child says, who was involved, how often it has happened, where it happened and what happened
- Reassure your child that he/she has done the right thing to tell you about the bullying
- Inform the school and make an appointment to see the teacher
- Explain to your child that should any further incidents occur he/she should report them to a teacher immediately
- Do not approach the child doing the bullying or his/her family directly

#### **If your child is bullying others:**

- Talk to your child; explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes other children unhappy
- Show your child how he/ she can join in with other children without bullying
- Make an appointment to see the teacher to talk about the problems your child is experiencing
- Give your child a lot of praise and encouragement when he/she is co-operative or kind to other people

### **Support Agencies**

**Anti-bullying Alliance** - the alliance brings together over 60 organisations into one network with the aim of reducing bullying.

[www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

### **Kidscape**

[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

**Childline** - advice and stories from children who have survived bullying

08000 1111

### **Useful sources of information**

**Stonewall** - Stonewall's 'Education for All' campaign, launched in January 2005, helps tackle homophobia and homophobic bullying in schools  
[www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk).

**Cyberbullying.org** - one of the first websites set up in this area, for young people, providing advice around preventing and taking action against cyber bullying. A Canadian based site [www.cyberbullying.org](http://www.cyberbullying.org)

**Chatdanger** - a website that informs about the potential dangers online (including bullying), and advice on how to stay safe while chatting  
[www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com)

**Think U Know** - the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), has produced a set of resources around internet safety for secondary schools  
[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Know IT All for Parents** - a range of resources for primary and secondary schools by Childnet International. Has a sample family agreement [www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents](http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents)

### **SEN and Disabilities**

**Mencap** represents those with learning difficulties and offers specific advice and information. [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

### **Reporting, recording and responding**

These flow charts are shared and used by the children and staff and shared with parents/carers. These should be followed when reporting, recording and responding to incidents/possible incidents of bullying behaviour.

**For a child reporting a possible bullying incident towards themselves or others**

Be assertive. Ask them politely but firmly to stop.  
Try ignoring them and tell a friend.

Did it stop?  
Yes No

If it happens again make sure that you speak to someone right away.

Speak to someone you trust who will do something about it:  
teacher, TA, parent/carer

Did it stop?  
Yes No

If it happens again make sure that you speak to someone right away.

Tell the same person again or tell your teacher. Say that it hasn't stopped and you need their help.

Did it stop?  
Yes No

If it happens again make sure that you speak to someone right away.

Tell the Headteacher, Deputy Head or Assistant Head  
Make sure that you say you've told someone before.

Did it stop?  
Yes No

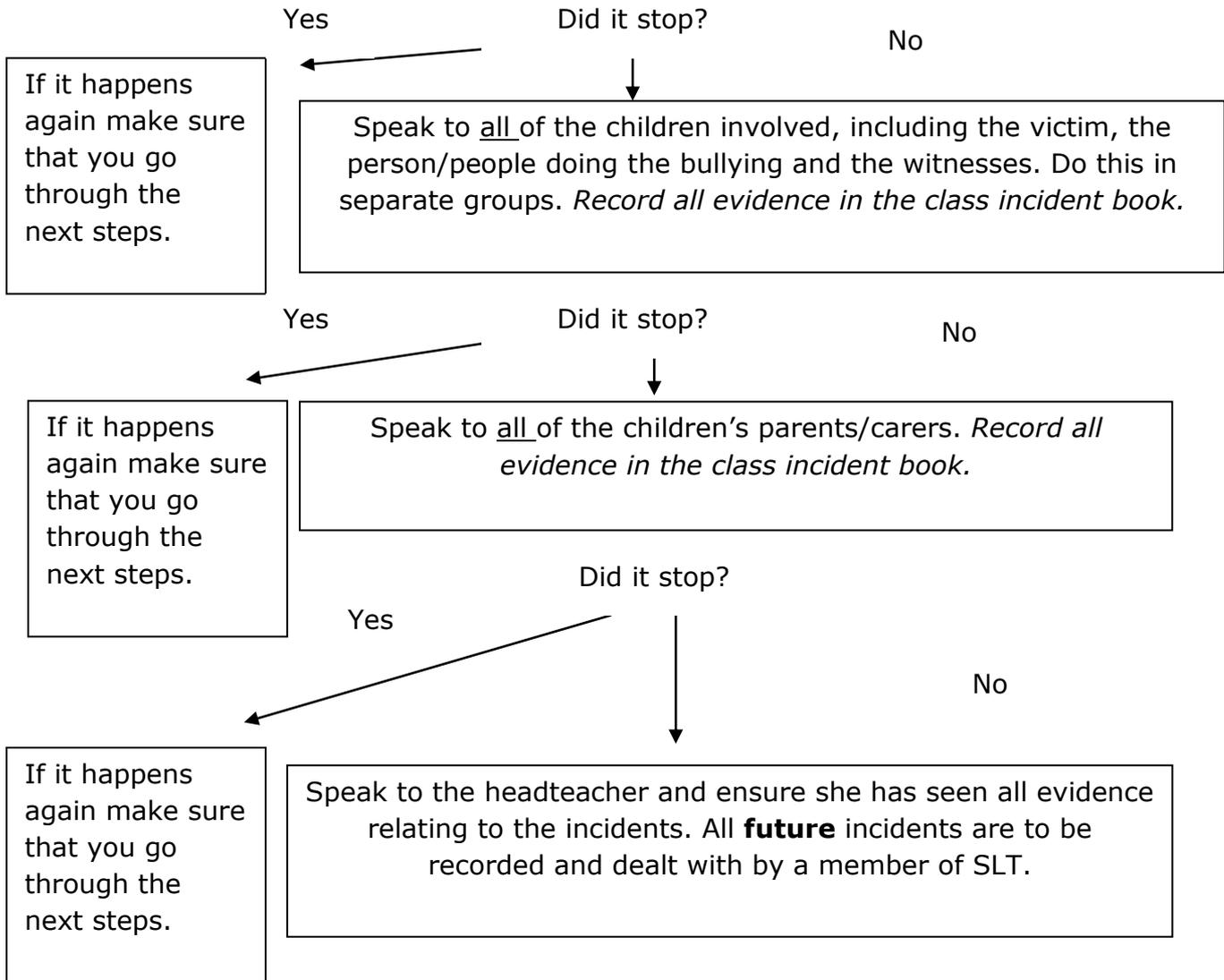
If it happens again make sure that you speak to someone right away.

You need to tell EVERY TIME something happens and ask your parent/carer to go and speak to her too.



## For staff reporting a possible bullying incident

All staff should report the incident directly to the child's/children's class teacher. Teacher's should speak to the whole class and where necessary ask other teachers to do the same. Do this as a circle time, talking about being kind to each other, rather than focusing on specific issues. *Record what the incident involved in the class incident book.*



### IMPORTANT POINTS

- If you feel that you are being treated unfairly/bullied by another adult (staff member or parent/carer) then this should be reported to the headteacher immediately.
- If you feel that you are unable to discuss this matter with the headteacher, then you must report it to another member of SLT BEFORE taking the issue to governors.