

# DELCE INFANT SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## ANTI BULLYING STATEMENT

This statement should be read in conjunction with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and Equal Opportunity Policy.

### **A definition of bullying**

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time. It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

The three main types of bullying are:

- \* physical - hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- \* verbal - name-calling, insulting, racist remarks
- \* indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups

Bullying of any kind, by any person, is not tolerated at Delce Infant School and Children's Centre. Our Positive Behaviour Policy states that we aim to:

- create a caring and concerned attitude throughout the school community
- provide a pleasant, stimulating environment for our children
- promote in our pupils the ability and disposition to co-operate with others and an awareness and tolerance of other ways of thinking
- develop in each pupil a sense of identity, achievement and worth.

We achieve these aims by:

- encouraging a sense of community with commonly agreed shared values
- ensuring that these standards are supported and reinforced by all members of our school community
- expecting that children will respect the needs and feelings of others
- reinforcing these values in a positive way through our own actions and attitudes and thus providing a role model for the children to see
- ensuring that all members of our school community have equality of opportunity in all areas of school life.

We do not believe that we have a major problem with bullying at the school. However, any incident of bullying must be taken very seriously and responded to straight away. Children must be taught that bullying of any kind is not acceptable and that if they themselves are bullied, or see anybody else being bullied, they must inform an adult. Positive behaviour and anti bullying strategies can be reinforced through different areas of the curriculum, for example through R.E., art, drama, English.

## **Strategies for dealing with bullying**

### **Pupils who are bullied:**

In the classroom teachers can often be aware of pupils being pressurised or teased by their peers. It is important that if teachers are aware of such incidents they do not leave them unchallenged. Similarly teachers, classroom assistants and mid-day meals supervisors who supervise children in the playground must be vigilant to ensure that no child is taunted or pressurised by their peers.

Pupils must be encouraged to tell an adult if they are bullied.

Pupils can be taught to refuse to comply with bullying pupils' demands. They must be encouraged to respond assertively to the bully.

### **Pupils who observe bullying:**

Many children, although they might not be bullied themselves, may well know that bullying is occurring and must be encouraged to take an active stand against bullying behaviour. They can help a bullied child to feel part of a group; they can inform a teacher or other adult about what is happening; they can show the bully that his/ her actions are unacceptable. Role-playing situations can help children gain confidence.

### **Further action:**

If bullying still continues after the matter has been dealt with by an appropriate adult, or if the bullying incident is deemed to be more serious than usual, the following strategies will be implemented:

- The headteacher will talk to the child being bullied to discuss the events that have occurred and to determine what action the child would like to happen.
- The head teacher will talk to the child(ren) doing the bullying and will discuss the effects of their bullying on the bullied child. These children must assume responsibility for their actions and be able to determine how to make amends.
- The headteacher will discuss these decisions with both parties of children (those being bullied as well as those doing the bullying).
- Another meeting will be arranged to discuss whether the behaviour has changed.

If bullying behaviour continues, or is deemed to be extremely distressing or physically harmful to the bullied child, the parents of both children will be contacted by either the class teacher or head teacher

a) to inform them of the situation

b) to enable the child to understand that such behaviour is unacceptable at home and school

c) to determine strategies to assist the child being bullied to stand up to the bullies and to help the bullying child learn that such behaviour is totally unacceptable.

In very serious, on-going cases other agencies such as the Educational Psychologist or the Special Needs Advisor will be consulted and provide support. In extreme cases the disciplinary procedure will come into force.

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