

Porth Community School



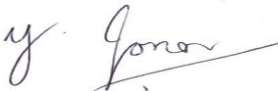

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COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Anti Bullying Policy

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Anti –Bullying Policy

Principles and values

Porth Community is committed to providing a learning environment that is safe, secure and positive in which all students are treated and valued equally. All students at Porth Community are expected to be the BEST they can be at all times. All students should be able to maximise their full potential and not be treated unfairly. All students have the right to be safe and happy in school, and to be protected when they are feeling vulnerable. Bullying; of any form; will not be tolerated. When bullying is reported it is never ignored and is always investigated fully by members of the Wellbeing Team. When bullying is determined it is dealt with promptly and appropriate actions are taken. The parents/guardians of both the alleged bully as well as the victim(s) are always involved within discussions to ensure a fair and robust result is met with each occasion(s) where bullying is raised. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy, the Safeguarding Policy (including Prevent), Attendance Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy, Health and Safety Policy, E-Safety and Internet Access Policy.

Objectives

1. All Governors, teaching staff, support staff, parents/guardians and, most importantly, students have an understanding of what constitutes bullying.
2. All Governors, teaching staff, support staff, parents/guardians and, most importantly students know our schools principles and values, what the policy is and how to report bullying. All students understand BEST

B –Be responsible

E- Ensure you are kind

S-Stay safe

T-Treat others with respect

3. As stated, bullying will not be tolerated. Students and parents/guardians are to be assured that they will be fully supported if an event of bullying is reported.
4. Students are to be encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to a member of staff or the Wellbeing Team.
5. Students and parents/guardians will be involved in maintaining and updating the bullying policy through student and parent/guardian voice. (School Parliament)

What is Bullying?

There is no legal definition of bullying.

However, it is usually defined as:

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, usually **repeated** over time that **intentionally** hurts another individual or group physically or emotionally.

Bullying includes:

- Verbal-for example name calling, taunting, mocking,
- Physical-for example kicking, hitting, pushing, tacking belongings,
- Cyber Bullying-text messaging, prank mobile calls and inappropriate use of social networking site
- Emotional- for example excluding people from social groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours
- Causing physical or emotional damage (which may cause psychological damage) to a pupil or group of pupils and can be motivated by prejudice on the grounds of race, religion, violent extremism or radicalization, culture, sex, gender, homophobia, disability and special educational needs or because a child is a adopted a carer or is a looked after child.

Bullying is not when children have the odd argument, fall out or engage in a one off tussle.

Bullying will be treated as a safeguarding/child protection concern when there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is suffering significant harm. The School will then follow the Safeguarding Policy.

Bullying via mobile phone and other social networking

Social networking and bullying via text messaging will be addressed and dealt with in line with the School's E Safety Policy and Safe Guarding Policy. In the event of such bullying mobile phones will be confiscated and parents/guardians informed. In this case, a parent/guardian will be asked to collect the student's phone from the school and the incident will be discussed and addressed. In the event of bullying via social media the school will request harmful comments are removed. Parents/guardians will be informed and will be responsible for the actions of the child. If the situation is serious and occurs outside of school the victim's family might also need to contact the police. The school may also contact the Police if it feels that this is an appropriate course of action

Our Aim

1. Porth Community School will present a safe and secure environment where there is an understanding that bullying will not be tolerated.
2. All students will be encouraged and allowed to express their own opinions without fear of ridicule
3. The School will react to bullying incidents immediately to prevent, de-escalate and/or stop any harmful behaviour
4. To safeguard the victim/s
5. To address the incident in an appropriate manner, applying sanctions to those causing bullying and ensure they are educated and learn from the incident using restorative approaches in order to manage their future behaviour
6. To ensure students feel listened to and to raise awareness of and tackle bullying across the school community.

Investigating Bullying

The Wellbeing Team and Heads of School will investigate incidents of bullying. These include cyber bullying. The investigation will be recorded and an incident log completed. Parents/guardians will be kept abreast of developments at each stage of any investigation and/or decision regarding appropriate sanctions. After this if bullying is confirmed, the school will consider its action according to the needs of the victim and the incident itself. In addition to the sanctions the victim(s) will be offered support and the perpetrator will be offered support to change their behaviour using restorative approaches. When the pupil does not respond positively to the support or interventions, it may be necessary to consider additional external support with parental/guardian consent. This may include Children Counselling Services, Educational Psychology or Behaviour Support Services.

After investigation, not all reported incidents are confirmed as bullying or may not be as straight forward as first reported. All incidents of confirmed bullying are reported termly to Rhondda Cynon Taff. In extreme events of assault, appropriate action is taken on an individual basis in conjunction with our Exclusions Policy.

To Students

If you are being bullied, or you know that someone else is, please tell us straight away, and it will be dealt with. You can tell your class teacher, form tutor, Head of School or any other member of staff you wish. Not telling means the victim will continue to suffer and the bully will carry on, probably with others too. We all have a **responsibility** to make sure that bullying is not allowed to take place in our school. You can refer to your student planner to read advice about what to do if you are being bullied or you know that someone is being bullied.

To Parents/Guardians

If you think your child may be being bullied, or he/she tells you that he/she is, please let us know straight away. However trivial please reassure him/her that we will deal with it sensitively but firmly. If your child tells us he/she is being bullied, or we discover that he/she is bullying others, we will contact you, and will discuss together how the situation can be resolved. Please read about how you can support your child if they are being bullied. You can find useful information in their student planner.

Curriculum Support

Curriculum work can enhance this policy. This enhances the resilience levels of the school curriculum.

1. The School's anti-bullying programme is integrated into the curriculum where pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and others. This is done during PSHE lessons. Guidelines on how to prevent being bullied are given. These take the form of questionnaires and class discussion and circle time.
2. The topic of bullying is dealt with in a way which explores why it happens and gives alternative ways of behaving, and dealing with difficulties
3. Teaching methods are used which encourage co-operative work and a variety of groupings so that students extend their relationships beyond a small group of friends.
4. Pupils may work on an assembly theme of anti-bullying. The message to report any form of bullying is repeated in assemblies throughout the year.
5. Student and parent/guardian voice will be analysed and used to review recommendations to ensure this Policy is updated in line with social and community developments.