

Why do we have an anti-bullying policy?

Bullying is not tolerated in our school, but we would be foolish to pretend it doesn't happen here. It can happen in any school and national studies show that bullying occurs more than anyone might think.

Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and the victims. It also affects those other children who watch, and who can get drawn in by group pressure.

Bullying is not an inevitable part of growing up; but neither does it usually sort itself out.

We hope you will agree with us that we **all** need to be active and work together to make school life happy and secure for all children. Our policy is designed to help us towards this goal.

The Chandlings anti-bullying policy is part of the Chandlings behaviour policy. A copy of this is kept inside the Parent Information File in the school office. Staff also have a copy in their Staff Handbook.



Being bullied does not have to be part
of growing up

A Leaflet for Parents

Bullying is anything intended to hurt or upset someone: that makes them feel ashamed, unhappy or afraid.

For example this means persistent problems with:

- Any physical violence, e.g. kicking or punching;
- Name calling and spreading hurtful rumours;
- Threats to hurt someone;
- Excluding anyone from any activity or group work;
- Ignoring or not talking to someone;
- Laughing at someone;
- Taking or damaging someone's property

If children are a part of a group that makes anybody feel ashamed, unhappy or afraid, **they are involved in bullying.**

Excuses will not be accepted;

“We were only messing about”

Was everybody laughing?

Did everybody find it funny?

Did you stay and help the person who was upset?

If not, it's bullying!

“I was there but didn't do anything”

If you did not try to stop it or get help you are partly responsible.

WHAT THE SCHOOL WILL DO

The teacher who received the information will find out how serious the incident is. Information will go to the Form Teacher, Head of Pre-Prep, Prep or Deputy Head. The incident will then be investigated.

If the incident is considered to be serious, the Headmistress will be informed. The victim, the bully and any witnesses will be interviewed to find out the truth of what has occurred.

A written record of the incident will be kept and further action will be taken as appropriate. Parents may be involved and asked to attend a meeting to discuss the problem.

The School acknowledges that prevention is better than intervention. The issue of bullying is covered in form time and PSE lessons and also through assemblies. We will use various methods for helping children to be aware of and to prevent bullying.

The reasons for bullying will vary from case to case; it would not be appropriate to use the same strategies on every occasion. Our aim is for the bully to recognise and stop his/her behaviour.

We all need to be active and work together to make school life happy and secure for everyone. This policy is to help us towards this goal.

TO PARENTS

How parents may help

If you suspect your child is being bullied or is feeling unhappy about something, please contact the Form Teacher, Head of Department or the Deputy Head, and do encourage your child to do likewise. It is important to **'tell' and talk** about the problem.

Possible signs of bullying

Bullying can bring about changes in children's behaviour.

They may:

- Be unwilling to go to school
- Begin doing poorly in school work
- Become withdrawn or distressed
- Have nightmares or cry themselves to sleep
- Have their possessions go missing
- Refuse to say what is wrong
- Give excuses to explain any of these things