



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying can be defined as the abuse of power by an individual or group in relation to another individual or group. It may be physical, sexual, verbal or psychological in nature. It may occur frequently or infrequently, regularly or irregularly, but it will not be tolerated at Oaktree School, even if it has occurred on only one occasion.

All pupils have the right to enjoy to the fullest possible extent the benefits of the education provision offered by Oaktree School. In order to maximise these benefits, pupils need to be educated in an environment which:

- Is safe and caring
- Provides challenges but is non-threatening
- Encourages pupils to feel secure
- Value pupils opinions and involves them, where appropriate, in the determining of school policy and rules
- Shows an awareness of pupils' individual needs and attempts to meet them
- Promotes an awareness of the seriousness of bullying through the pastoral system, the curriculum, assemblies and school/home links
- Offers the support of all staff, parents and governors, united in viewing bullying very seriously

Guidelines for preventing bullying:

1. Provide a positive learning environment and an appropriate curriculum for all pupils.
2. Encourage a listening, telling and believing environment, where the concerns of the individual are taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.
3. Encourage the view of the school as a community where each individual has an important and valued role to play.
4. Minimise confrontation and promote mutual respect.
5. Recognise that these strategies are not the responsibility of any one person or group, but are the combined responsibility of all involved with Oaktree School.

Action

Pupils are always encouraged to tell adults if other children are upsetting or bullying them, and appropriate action is always taken: pupils are never told not to tell tales. In most cases an explanation of why behaviour is unacceptable and a simple admonishment are sufficient to resolve matters. More serious or persistent incidents are dealt with more firmly following the line management described in the behaviour policy statement. In an extreme case, outside agencies such as the education psychologist, the Child and Family Service, or social services etc may be invited to support the work of the school.