

# Safeguarding Newsletter



Autumn Term 2022

At Alverton Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and of utmost priority.

The aim of our termly safeguarding newsletter is to communicate key information to parents concerning safeguarding and how as a school we aim to keep you informed to actively promote the safeguarding and welfare of all our pupils. We try to have a different focus each term to provide information that is helpful for our parents about situations that their children might face now or in the future.

You can find further safeguarding information in the Safeguarding section of our website, including all our previous Safeguarding newsletters which contain a range of safeguarding information.

<http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/safeguarding/85998> and [http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/staying\\_safe\\_online\\_-\\_who\\_can\\_help/550827](http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/staying_safe_online_-_who_can_help/550827)

## Bullying: What is it?

All forms of bullying are unacceptable in our school.

**The definition of bullying in our school is: "deliberate or conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten an individual or group."**

The term bullying refers to a range of harmful behaviour, both physical and psychological. Bullying behaviour usually has the following features:

- It is repetitive and persistent – though sometimes a single incident can have precisely the same impact as persistent behaviour over time, for it can be experienced as part of a continuous pattern and can be extremely threatening and intimidating. This is particularly the case with racist, homophobic/transphobic, and disablist bullying.
- It is intentionally harmful.
- Bullying behaviour is seen as being "Several Times on Purpose".
- It involves an imbalance of power, leaving someone feeling helpless to prevent it or put a stop to it.
- It causes feelings of distress, fear, loneliness and lack of confidence in those who are at the receiving end.

One-off incidents can bear many characteristics of bullying. These incidents may be equally serious as incidents of bullying and we endeavour to deal with them following the same guidelines.

## Actions if incidents of bullying are reported

The school will where possible seek to:

- Investigate
- Record
- Where bullying is believed to have taken place, the Headteacher should always be informed.
- Take the appropriate action (including communication with parents, class teachers etc) as soon as possible.

**We aim to challenge and prevent bullying through fostering an inclusive and open environment in which difference is celebrated and appreciated. We will not tolerate incidents of bullying or harassment within our school.**

**Bullying will always be taken seriously. Bullying will never be tolerated.**

## Types of Bullying

Bullying may take various forms, including:

**Physical** including kicking, hitting or pushing, intimidating behaviour and interference with personal property

**Verbal / Psychological** including name calling, threats and taunting and inappropriate comments about appearance

**Prejudice-related** - we do not tolerate discrimination of others on any grounds including gender, educational need or disability, age, ethnicity, culture, faith or sexual orientation. Prejudice-related bullying may be experienced through racist, homophobic, disablist or sexist bullying and includes continued association of a word/ term which is primarily used to connote a minority group with negativity or aggression (eg "gay").

**Gifted / Talented**

**Sexual Harassment and Abuse (including online)** - this can include:

- Unwanted / inappropriate physical contact
- Sexual innuendo
- Suggestive propositioning
- Exposure to age-inappropriate themes or material
- Distribution / display of pornographic material aimed at an individual

**Online Bullying / Cyber Bullying** - this can include:

- Abuse online or via text message
- Interfering with electronic files
- Deliberate exclusion from online groups, forums or networks
- Undisclosed covert filming or photography of an individual
- Setting up or promoting inappropriate websites

## Useful Websites

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

<https://www.familylives.org.uk>

<http://www.kidscape.org.uk>

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk>

## Bullying v Falling Out

There is a difference between bullying and the 'falling out' that children can experience in school. Often issues can be very easily resolved and, with adult intervention, friendships can be restored. Falling out with peers and one-off incidents between children are inevitable in all schools. Such issues will not be regarded as 'bullying' by school and are dealt with using a problem solving and restorative approach so that they can be quickly resolved.

It is vital that both children and parents can identify the difference between bullying and common issues that can occur between children in school and your child's teacher will always be available to talk to you should you want to discuss any issues with them.

**If you see it, hear it or know about it - report it!**

**This could be a child being neglected or any other kind of abuse.**

**Remember - safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

**Mr Higgs** is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for Alverton School and **Mrs Wicks** is the Deputy DSL. They will always be willing to listen to any concerns you may have.

If they are not available, Mrs Clemens, Mr Dawe, Mrs Daylak, Mrs Hughes, Mrs O'Neill, Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Simpson have all received additional safeguarding training and will be able to help you.

01736 364087

**Cornwall Multi-  
Agency Referral Unit**  
0300 123 1116

**NSPCC**   
**HELPLINE**  
**0808 800 5000**  
[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**ChildLine**  
**0800 1111** 