

Information for Parents

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BULLYING?

Children or young people may:-

- be frightened of the journey to school
- refuse to attend school
- arrive home very hungry
- come home with possessions destroyed
- ask for extra money
- have unexplained cuts and bruises
- have difficulty coping with schoolwork
- have nightmares and cry in their sleep
- seem unhappy but refuse to say what is wrong

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

If your child is bullied:-

- listen calmly to your child and take what he/ she says seriously
- reassure your child that it is not his/ her fault
- make a note of what happened, when and who was involved
- tell your child that you will find ways to ensure his/ her safety
- make an appointment to see your child's teacher
- find out what action the teacher plans to take and when
- keep in touch with school
- let school staff know if things improve or if there are further incidents
- do not confront the child or parents yourself – work together with school staff

IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE RESPONSE FROM SCHOOL:-

- make an appointment to see the Headteacher (if you need support to do this contact the Parent Officer)
- explain why you want the appointment so he/ she can investigate before the meeting
- after the meeting, give the Headteacher time to deal with the situation
- if you are still not satisfied with the response, make a formal written complaint to the Chair of Governors
- in your letter of complaint – explain what has happened and tell the Chair what you would feel to be a satisfactory outcome
- remember that the most important thing is your child's well-being and safety – not revenge

DO SCHOOLS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE?

Yes. Registered inspectors report on behaviour and discipline as part of the OFSTED Framework for Inspection. They consider whether pupils are free from bullying, racism and other forms of harassment. This takes into account views of parents as well as students. (OFSTED, *Handbook for Inspecting Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools*, effective from September 2003)

SCHOOLS SHOULD:

- have a clear behaviour policy and publicise it annually
 - promote respect for others
 - make it clear that it does not tolerate bullying and harassment
- (Annex B, *The Legal Framework for School Discipline*, September 1999)

Together we can **STOP** bullying

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Remember – Schools can only help if they know what is happening

HEADTEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:-

- maintaining acceptable standards of discipline and behaviour in schools
- regulating pupil's conduct
- putting in place effective strategies to combat bullying
- acting in accordance with policies written by the Governing Body

(Annex B, *The Legal Framework for School Discipline*, September 1999)

They should 'encourage good behaviour and respect for others on the part of the pupils and, in particular, prevent all forms of bullying among pupils.' (Section 61 (4) b *School Standards and Framework Act*, 1998)

GOVERNORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:-

- formulating a whole school discipline policy
- the ethos of the school and its values
- producing an effective complaints procedure
- making sure that the National Curriculum is delivered; this includes Personal, Social and Health Education

HELP TO PREVENT BULLYING

- talk to your children about how they treat others who are younger or less able or different from themselves
- encourage your children to think about how others feel
- ask them if there are children who are picked on at school
- tell them that they can help to stop bullying by befriending and supporting children who are less able to cope with teasing
- bullying behaviour can happen at any age – check your own actions
- lead by example – think before you tease those who perhaps are not as strong as you

Together we can create a calmer, happier environment

WHAT CAN THE PARENT OFFICER DO TO HELP?

The Parent Officer is employed by the Leicestershire Education Department to provide support for families who are experiencing difficulties with anything to do with education services. She can advise and support you if your child is being bullied. Contact: - The Parent Officer, Customer Service Point, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8RF. Tel: 0116 265 6197

Why not visit

www.beyondbullying.com

Leicestershire's anti-bullying website, and also...

www.brockshill.leics.sch.uk/antibully

Together we can STOP bullying

