



Children are the Future

# Hamilton Primary School



Children are the Future

## ANTI-BULLYING POLICY STATEMENT

### Mission statement

We will provide high quality teaching within a disciplined and secure environment and encourage individual development alongside mutual respect.

### Introduction

At Hamilton Primary School we do not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. All children and young people have the right to an educational environment where they feel safe and which is free from harassment and bullying. This right is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child which encompasses a child's right to have an equal chance to be what they are and learn to be responsible and useful irrespective of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion or national or racial origin. A child also has the right not to be harmed and to be brought up in a spirit of peace and friendship.

### At Hamilton School we believe that bullying:

- is the persistent and deliberate abuse of another person.
- comes in many different forms, physical, verbal and emotional.
- is always hurtful.
- is always unacceptable and at times can have serious consequences.

Bullying is hard to identify, easy to overlook or misinterpret and dangerous to ignore so every effort must be made to deal promptly and effectively with incidents of bullying.

### Bullying can take many forms:

- Teasing, mocking or picking on someone.
- Exclusion, deliberately ignoring someone and/or encouraging others to do the same.
- Repeatedly "putting down" someone.
- Spreading rumours.
- Threatening someone.
- Using racist names or any hurtful names which obviously upset.
- Sexist comments.
- Punching, hitting, kicking or pushing someone.
- Taking or damaging property.

### Children who feel that they are experiencing bullying should:

- **Tell the bully to stop** - State quite clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and offensive and, if possible, walk away from the situation.
- **Seek adult help** - if the bullying continues or they are afraid to tell the bully to stop.
- **Report it to their class teacher or any member of staff** -

Children must feel confident that any incident can be resolved satisfactorily.

### Strategies in place to prevent bullying:

1. At Hamilton each class creates a set of class rules at the beginning of each term and this is when the children learn about the action they can take to prevent bullying.
2. The older children in Year 6 act as peer mediators to try and help set up a safer environment and provide an additional listening ear.
3. "We are a telling school," this message is regularly enforced by all members of staff. If children feel they are being bullied in or out of school they must tell an adult. The adult will then take appropriate action.

All children must feel confident that any incident can be resolved satisfactorily.

### All children should help to prevent bullying by:

- *Respecting themselves* and others.
- *Working* to create a pleasant school environment *for all*.
- *Learning to tolerate* and accept individual differences.
- *Making sure* that others don't feel excluded.
- *Knowing and supporting* the school policy on bullying.

### Incidents of bullying will be dealt with appropriately in a variety of ways, which will include:

- Referral to Year Leader
- Referral to Deputy / Assistant Headteacher
- Referral to Headteacher
- Formal contact with the parents
- Placing on report
- Internal exclusion
- Temporary exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

Parents who feel that a child is being bullied **must alert the school** by writing to the class teacher or ringing the office. Any change in behaviour could be an indication that something is wrong. Unwillingness to attend school, feigning illness, frequent loss or damage of personal property, loss of confidence, uncharacteristic mood changes, bad dreams, nightmares or withdrawal from social activities could be indicators that something is wrong.

Everyone at Hamilton Primary School works to create a happy and safe environment, where all feel valued, and where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted.

November 2008

D Jackson, Deputy Headteacher

*This policy became operational from 19 November 2008. The policy may be amended from time to time in accordance with school development and any changes to legislation.*