

Marden Bridge



Middle School

Believe, achieve, succeed.

Anti-bullying Policy

MARDEN BRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Introduction

Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and their victims. It also affects those children who watch, and the group pressure can draw in less aggressive pupils. Bullying and racism have no place at Marden Bridge. No one person or group should have to accept bullying of any kind.

Marden Bridge believes that its pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. This school has a clear policy on the promotion of its "Code of Conduct" where everyone will act with courtesy and consideration at all times.

Children are given advice during PSCHE lessons about how to deal with bullying and how to get help.

- a) Tell yourself that you do not deserve to be bullied and that it is wrong.
- b) Be proud of who you are. It is good to be individual.
- c) Try not to show that you are upset. It is hard but a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- d) Be assertive – shout "No". Walk away confidently. Go straight to a teacher or member of staff.
- e) Fighting back makes things worse.
- f) Tell an adult you trust straight away. You will get immediate support.

All staff at Marden Bridge take bullying seriously and will deal with bullies in a way that will be effective and deal bullying and will not make things worse for the victim.

Types of Bullying

There are different types of bullying but the common feature is that it is a deliberate act to cause physical or mental distress.

Non-verbal: kicking, hitting, damaging or taking belongings

Verbal: name calling, taunting

Indirect: spreading rumours, excluding

Cyberbullying – is defined as the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the Internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

Homophobic – occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian, gay or bisexual people.

Racist – behaviour or language that makes a pupil feel unwelcome or marginalised because of their colour, ethnicity, culture, religion or national origin.

Sexual – such as lewd comments, directions or by other means of communication or non-consensual sexual touching.

(LGB&T) pupils; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

Social/Environment – this is where young people are targeted due to an inequality of wealth.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities

All members of staff at Marden Bridge have a duty to:-

- a) organise situations in order to minimise opportunities for bullying eg provide supervision at problem times eg breaks and lunchtimes
- b) use any opportunity to discuss aspects of bullying and the appropriate way to behave towards each other e.g. lessons/class assembly times
- c) deal quickly, firmly and fairly with any complaints, incidents of bullying informing parents of the victim(s) and the perpetrator(s)
- d) ensure that the school policy is revised annually as to its degree of success
- e) they will continue to have a firm but fair discipline structure. Rules will be few, simple and easy to understand
- f) encourage pupils to discuss how they get on with others and to foster positive attitudes towards other people.
- g) encourage pupils to treat everyone with courtesy and consideration at all times
- h) treat bullying as a serious offence and take every possible action to eradicate it from the school.

Action to be taken when bullying is suspected

If bullying is suspected the victim will be spoken to, as will the bully and any witnesses. If any degree of bullying is identified the following action will be taken:-

- a) all people involved will be interviewed within 24 hours and a brief report logged in the school bullying file
- b) records of all incidents will be passed to the Head who will then inform Governors at the next available opportunity
- c) parents will be informed

- d) class teachers/Key Stage Leaders will be informed. Class teachers will mentor and monitor pupils involved
- e) perpetrators will be dealt with in accordance with the school behaviour policy
- f) vulnerable pupils will receive counselling by an appropriate member of staff

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, schools may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child doing the bullying.