



St Denys Primary



Creativity, Choice, Challenge



Achievement for All



ST DENYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

DEALING WITH BULLYING POLICY

“We aim to create a calm, positive atmosphere that is conducive to learning where children feel safe, valued and secure”

This Dealing with Bullying Policy is part of “St Denys Way” Behaviour Policy. It applies to everyone in the school, all children and all adults, including voluntary helpers and students. Everyone within the school needs to feel they can tell someone when bullying occurs. They need to know that all incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

The school follows guidance within the Keeping Children Safe in Education documentation (last update 2025), the Southampton Local Authority Safeguarding and Child Protection advice and information received at Safeguarding briefings and training.

Rationale

Everyone has the right to attend school without fearing the bullying behaviour of others.

We define bullying as “the behaviour of one or more people that has damaging or hurtful effects physically or emotionally on an individual”.

It is not acceptable at St Denys Primary School.

In deciding whether actions amount to bullying, many factors are to be considered:

What has happened?

It may be: -

- exclusion from the group
- harassment
- malicious gossip/stirring name calling
- physical abuse threatening behaviour
- cyber bullying
- any other behaviour that causes distress to another person

To clarify we understand that bullying can be:

Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting

Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or using any type of violence

Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures

Verbal: name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

Cyber: all areas of internet, e-mail, chat rooms, text threats, misuse of camera and video images

How much / how often?

A one-off incident may not be bullying.

A minor incident that is repeated is bullying

Why?

We have to understand the difference between rough play, a genuine accident, a snap remark and bullying.

Who is involved?

Whoever it is, if the behaviour is damaging to someone else, then it is bullying. This applies to all members of the school community.

Aims

St Denys Primary School is committed to combating all bullying behaviour through:

- A programme of education where all pupils are encouraged to develop respect for themselves and others. This is a fundamental principle of the School Code of Conduct. The school recognises the detrimental effect on pupils who may experience bullying, and will work rigorously to minimise the risks.
- monitoring a structured disciplinary system (through the School's Behaviour Policy) which is understood by all pupils, staff and parents.
- Providing a system which supports both victims and bullies. The school uses a Restorative Practice approach.

Curriculum

The school's P.S.H.E. and Citizenship programme will give everyone the opportunity to discuss bullying and its consequences, thinking about bullies, victims and witnesses, in order to raise awareness of a safe, caring environment. Pupils have a responsibility to treat one another with respect and to avoid behaviour that would constitute bullying.

During the school day all staff will be vigilant of any behaviour or incidents that may give rise to bullying, and will deal with them according to the school's Behaviour Policy.

Parents

Parents can play a vital role by stressing to their children the importance of good behaviour and good relationships.

Parents are asked to actively support the Behaviour Policy, and to contact the school with any concerns they may have

Combatting Bullying Behaviour

Among the strategies which the school will establish and maintain in an effort to prevent and combat bullying behaviour are:

- Promoting an atmosphere of "IT'S OKAY TO TELL". This includes reporting to the nearest adult any behaviour or activity that causes concern. This important message will be communicated by governors and staff to pupils, parents and the wider community.
- Expecting Year 6 ambassadors to provide positive role models in terms of behaviour and relationships with others.
- Examining the preventative measures such as the school ethos and environment, the curriculum and procedures and practices, in an effort to reduce the risk of bullying.
- Ensuring that all reported incidents of bullying are recorded. (A record of any incidents are logged on CPOMS).

Dealing with Incidents

- Staff, parents and pupils must actively support the school's policy by reporting all incidents, or any suspected bullying activities that a victim may be afraid to report.
- All pupils involved will be interviewed. The expected outcome of this is that pupils not only acknowledge their own behaviour, but they can reflect on what the correct behaviour should have been.
- In applying sanctions to deal with bullying situations, the school's Behaviour Policy will be implemented as appropriate. This may include lunchtime detention or fixed term exclusion. These sanctions are in response to the incident and not previous incidents
- Parents will be involved in situations as appropriate, but always with detentions and exclusion. With some incidents it is advisable to involve parents in order to work together to try and prevent further problems.
- Victims will be made aware of the sanctions where the Behaviour Policy has been implemented. If appropriate the victim and the bully will be counselled together in line with Restorative

