

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

1. Prendergast is a school where we expect everyone to respect each other. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a comfortable and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING school - anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a teacher or a prefect.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

2. Bullying takes many forms and is usually the conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. It results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can have short term or long term results.

Bullying can include:

- a Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- b Emotional - excluding, tormenting (i.e. hiding books, threatening gestures), being unfriendly, racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, 'staring out'.
- c Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching or any use of violence.
- d Sexual - unwanted physical contact or abusive comments.

OBJECTIVES:

- * All staff, governors, pupils and parents should have an understanding of bullying
- * Bullying will not be tolerated.
- * A clear procedure for reporting and dealing with bullying should be understood and followed.

PROCEDURES and CONSEQUENCES

1. Report bullying incidents (in or out of school) to staff / prefects.
2. Prefects must inform staff of any reported bullying incident.
3. A senior member of staff, normally the Head of Section, sees those named as bullies. The incident will be recorded and reported to the Head Teacher.
4. Parents of bullies may be informed and may be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the problem.
5. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
6. The bullying behaviour and threats of bullying must immediately stop.
7. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
8. The bully will offer an apology and explanation to the victim and other appropriate consequences may take place, e.g. parents being informed; seen by the Headmistress, detentions, counselling.
9. Suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
10. Whenever possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
11. A RECORD OF THE APOLOGY AND ANY ACTION TAKEN WILL BE KEPT IN THE BULLY'S FILE.

PREVENTION: Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

NB This policy is to be displayed in every classroom and in the main downstairs corridor.