

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers



Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is coordinated in England and Wales by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. It will take place this term from **13 to 17 November 2023** and this year has the theme 'Make A Noise'.

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. The theme of Make A Noise About Bullying came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'. So, let's Make a Noise about bullying and ensure that it doesn't have to be this way.

Of course, we won't like everyone and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.

It doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out.

Together, let's be the change we want to see. During the week and moving forward let us:

Reflect on our own behaviour, as children and adults and set positive examples and create kinder communities.

As staff and pupils at Bunbury we will be taking part Odd Socks Day on **Monday 13th November**, to Anti Bullying week. Adults and children can wear **socks** to school in order to celebrate what makes us unique. This will be followed by assemblies and activities in class during our PSHE time. At Bunbury, we are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment.



in the launch **odd** all

Bullying is unacceptable at Bunbury and will not be tolerated in our school.



We take all incidents of bullying extremely seriously and they are always dealt with by the Principal or Deputy Principal. Parents will be notified and if necessary asked into school to discuss the situation. Steps will be taken to protect the victims of bullying and help to develop strategies to avoid situations in which they are bullied. Steps will also be taken to modify the behaviour of the bully – via behaviour programmes, working with parents and the bully to enhance their self-image and behaviour.

Bullying hurts and no-one deserves to be a victim of bullying. At Bunbury, **everybody – staff and pupils included** have the right to be treated with respect and pupils or adults who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving.

At Bunbury, Primary School, we acknowledge that bullying does happen from time to time – indeed, it would be unrealistic to claim that it does not. When bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively in accordance with our anti-bullying policy. Our work through our RSHE programme and KIVA is to try to prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online.

Repeated bullying behaviour is where one person (or group of people) in a position of power deliberately intimidates, abuses, or coerces an individual with the intention to hurt that person physically or emotionally. Acts of bullying can be physical or verbal.

Many young people can be unkind to each other during childhood and adolescent as they refine social skills and grow into adults. While these interactions are unpleasant, there is a clear line between conflict and bullying. Incidents of bullying must include all 3 of these characteristics:

- 1) Intentional- the behaviour was intentional and a deliberate attempt to hurt another person without provocation or interaction. It is a one-sided action and not done in retaliation. E.g. a bully will deliberately seek out, go over and hurt another child physically or emotionally for no reason
- 2) Repeated- these aggressive actions occur repeatedly over time to the same person or group of people and are intentional. They are one sided incidents.
- 3) Power imbalance- the person bullying has more physical or social power than the child or children being bullied and this is used by the bully to their advantage in a situation.

Bullying is not:

It is important to understand that bullying is not the occasional falling out with friends, name calling, hit, kick, argument or when a trick or joke is played on someone else.

It is not a situation in which both parties have been involved. It is bullying if it is done several times on purpose and is a one series of incidents.

Just as we as adults can react to a situation inappropriately, children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset, cross or retaliating to a situation. When occasional problems of this kind arise, it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, name calling, childish pranks or retaliation to a situation. We all have to learn with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships as both adults and children.

If your child is bullying other children:

- Many children may be involved in bullying other pupils at some time or other
- Often parents are not aware that their child is involved in bullying

Children sometimes bully because:

- they do not know that it is wrong
- they are copying behaviour seen in parents, brothers and sisters
- they haven't learned other better ways of mixing with their school friends

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- their friends encourage them to bully
- they may be going through a difficult time and are acting out aggressive feelings

To stop your child from bullying

- talk with the child, explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes others unhappy
- discourage other members of the family from aggressive, obsessive, intimidating and bullying behaviour
- show your child that they can join in with others without bullying

If your child has been bullied

- talk calmly to them about their experience, make a note of the details without interrogation about the school day
- reassure your child that they have done the right thing by talking to an adult and explain that they need to report all incidents immediately

Discussing the bullying with teachers as parents

- remain calm and bear in mind that the teacher may not be aware that your child is being bullied. Be specific with details.
- make a note of what action is to be taken and ask if there is anything that you can do to

Many thanks for your continued support

Nic Badger

Nic Badger
Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School
EHT for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust

