

## Witheridge CE Primary School - A Policy Statement on Bullying

### **Rationale**

Bullying in its worst form is "the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else". However, it can also include teasing or rough play which is seen by the recipient as hurtful but not perceived by the child carrying out the harassment in the same way. It is therefore important for all children to understand that whatever their intentions their actions may hurt others.

We acknowledge that some children, for a number of reasons do, at some time in their childhood, bully others. It is therefore important for all of us to be vigilant and to help both the target and the bully.

### **Purpose**

At Witheridge CE Primary we treat bullying as a serious matter. We talk about the kind of behaviour seen as bullying at the beginning of each year, and encourage children who feel threatened in any way to talk to someone, a friend, a parent, a teacher. Unless we know it is happening we cannot help. This is reinforced throughout the year with posters, drama, and Assembly times. We believe that bullying is the most unacceptable form of misdemeanour which may, in the last resort, result in the loss of privileges and even suspension where it is considered necessary. The work and school life of the majority must not be disrupted by a minority and will not be allowed.

The school endorses the "Devon Approach to Promoting Acceptable Behaviour in School", which supports a partnership between school, pupils and parents based on suggested entitlements. Of particular relevance to bullying are the statements that children are entitled to:

- a safe and secure school environment conducive to effective and stimulating learning;
- freedom from physical or verbal abuse;
- a fair, consistent, clear and calm approach to discipline from the school;
- a clear set of guidelines and expectations about their behaviour in school.

### **Guidelines**

It is suggested that certain measures, can be taken in an endeavour to prevent bullying occurring. These include:

- adequate playground supervision,
- the school grounds/playground containing areas where the children can be quiet and relax, and others where they may take part in more vigorous play,
- all adults being aware of those children likely to be bullied,
- parents encouraged to inform the school if they suspect bullying.

Dealing with bullying can be difficult, not only in the amount of time it can take but in establishing all the facts. Any reports of bullying should always be reported to the Headteacher please.

Suggestions for dealing with bullying include :

- always believe the target, and reassure him/her that appropriate action will be taken;
- take action quickly;
- remain calm so as not to reinforce the suggestion of one person having power over another,
- give help and support;
- encourage the bully to see the target's point of view;
- punish, if necessary, and explain the reason;
- inform all parties what action has been taken.

Children who feel threatened or children who witness bullying should know what to do, i.e. inform an appropriate adult: a teacher on duty, class teacher, MTA, or Head.

It should be remembered, however, that children being bullied are often too scared to talk about it, therefore we

all need to be aware of this.