



ROXETH PRIMARY SCHOOL
ANTI BULLYING POLICY
Revised October 2018

Aim and purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to create a happy, pleasant, secure and stimulating learning environment where everyone will be encouraged and inspired to do their very best. Therefore, at Roxeth we adopt a zero tolerance approach to bullying by adults or pupils, and any such incidents will be dealt with promptly and fairly. If bullying does occur, we aim to provide an environment where all pupils or adults feel safe to disclose incidents and know that these incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

The purpose of this behaviour policy is to give a framework to be used by everyone in the whole school community. This will discourage bullying behaviours by clearly demonstrating the sanctions that will follow. This policy has been agreed in consultation with staff, children and governors and reflects the values and principles that are important in the school.

The aim of this policy is to support the school mission statement which is 'Together at Roxeth we can achieve.' Bullying is therefore entirely contrary to the values and principles at Roxeth. All members of the school community have a right to work and learn in a secure and caring environment. They also have a responsibility to contribute, in whatever way they can, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment through the implementation of this policy.

Roxeth Primary School has attained Level One UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) which helps schools to use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as the school's values framework. As a whole school community we speak about our values, our rights and how we respect them. (Article 1 and 2: every child has rights) This approach enhances pupils' understanding of the consequences of individual and group actions on the rights of others locally and globally. It also serves as the basis for a shared vision, which runs like a thread through all aspects of school life, and which promotes positive environments, positive relationships and good learning (Class Charter and Roxeth Charter). We also follow a value based education where we focus on a value very month e.g. tolerance.

Objectives:

- To ensure all members of the school community understand what bullying is.
- To ensure all members of the school community know the school's policy on bullying, and understand the procedures to follow when bullying is reported.

- To demonstrate that bullying will not be tolerated. Victims of bullying will be listened to and incidences thoroughly investigated.
RRSA Article 19: You should not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe.
RRSA Article 12: You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

What is Bullying?

There is no legal definition of bullying. *

However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, e.g. because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (eg email, social networks, whatsapp and instant messenger)

**<https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school/bullying-a-definition>*

What is Cyber-bullying?

Cyber-bullying has been defined as –

“The use of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the use of the internet, to deliberately upset someone else.”

Cyber-bullying can be an extension of face-to-face bullying.

Our concern is that cyber-bullying invades home and personal space.

Cyber-bullying is a form of bullying and can affect pupils and staff.

Cyber-bullying is not a specific criminal offence but laws concerning harassment and threatening behaviour may be applied.

Cyber-bullying has many forms –

- Threats
- Intimidation
- Harassment

- Stalking (repeatedly sending unwanted texts / messages)
- Manipulation
- Publication of private information or images/videos.

It is essential to understand that some incidents of cyber-bullying may be unintentional and the consequences may also be unintentional. It is important to stress those bystanders or observers of cyber-bullying may become perpetrators by allowing these actions to take place. Roxeth School's response to cyber-bullying is that we believe Cyber-bullying is a form of bullying. We will adopt our full range of anti-bullying strategies to combat this form of bullying.

RRSA Article 17: You have a right to get information that is important to your wellbeing from radios, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure the information you get is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

Additional strategies available to us in order to combat this form of bullying include –

- Monitoring the use of ICT during school hours.
- All mobile phones have to be handed in to the school office during the day.
- Restricting access to ICT provision at the beginning of school hours.
- Raising awareness of this particular form of bullying through PSHE/IT sessions and Assemblies.
- Encouraging parents to monitor use of ICT outside of school hours.
- Providing learners with access to a range of means of reporting incidents causing concern.
- Working closely with the Police to report concerns at the earliest opportunity.
- At Roxeth, we celebrate Anti- bullying week.

If parents / carers are concerned, please contact the school. We would ask all parents / carers to:

- Be vigilant of how their child uses such technologies.
- Use the relevant safety 'tools' that are available to help monitor and manage the internet
- Keep any evidence of offending emails, text messages or online conversations

Signs and Symptoms in pupils:

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school,
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus,
- begs to be driven to school,
- changes their usual routine,
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic),
- begins to truant,
- becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence,
- starts stammering,
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away,
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares,

- feels ill in the morning,
- begins to show no interest in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged,
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully),
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises,
- comes home starving (lunch has been stolen),
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable,
- is bullying other children or siblings,
- stops eating,
- is frightened to say what's wrong,
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above,
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone,
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received.

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

What can parents do?

If your child is bullied:

- listen calmly to your child and take what he/she says seriously
- reassure your child that it is not his/her fault, make a note of what happened when and who was involved
- tell your child that you will find ways to ensure his/her safety, make an appointment to see your child's teacher, find out what action the teacher plans to take and when
- keep in touch with school
- let school staff know if things improve or escalate if there are further incidents, do not confront the child or parents yourself but communicate with the Deputy Head or Head.
- ask to see copy of the schools anti-bullying policy
- work together with school staff

At Roxeth Primary School we follow a three step policy when bullying is reported or seen all staff must:

- 1.** Inform the class teacher and the incident is discussed with the individuals concerned. This can be done on a one to one basis or with a group of individuals who are involved. Adherence to the school's Golden Charter is noted and in line with the school's Behaviour Policy, a Think sheet is completed and filed in the class behaviour folder.
- 2.** Inform a senior teacher when continued incidents of bullying are reported or noted. They will meet all individuals concerned either in a group or one to one. The incident is discussed and adherence to the schools Golden Charter is noted and in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. A Think Sheet is completed and filed in the class behaviour folder. Parents are contacted and a meeting is called to discuss the incident(s). Parents are informed that if such behaviour occurs the next step will be a meeting with the Head teacher.

3. Inform the Head teacher and they will meet all individuals concerned either in a group or one to one. The incident is discussed and adherence to the schools Golden Charter is noted and in line with the school's Behaviour Policy a Think Sheet is completed and filed in the central behaviour folder. Parents are contacted and a meeting is called by the Head to discuss the incident(s). The Head teacher will inform parents that if any other incidents of bullying are seen or reported, internal and then external exclusions will follow.

After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

RRSA Article 29: You have the right to an education and use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn in a peacefully, protect the environment and respect others.

REFERENCES AND LINKS

- <https://www.gov.uk/bullying-at-school>
- http://www.harrowscb.co.uk/ChildrenandYoungPeople/Worried_about_bullying.aspx
- Safeguarding and Child protection policies
- Behaviour Policy
- E safety policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Home School Agreement

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parent line Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying UK	www.bullying.co.uk
Anti-Bullying Alliance	www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
CEOP	https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

This policy was reviewed by the Governing Body in 2018

This policy will be due for review in 2020