

**ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**  
**including the Early Years Foundation Stage**

The aim of our Anti-Bullying Policy is to ensure that our pupils learn in a safe, supportive and caring environment, without fear of being bullied. Bullying of any sort will not be tolerated at Durlston Court.

“Bullying” is deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the victim to defend him/herself.

We recognise that bullying may take many different forms, including;

- Racial
- Religious
- Cultural
- Sexual
- Homophobic
- Disability
- Special Educational Needs
- Cyber (social websites, mobile ‘phones, text messages, photographs, e-mail)

Bullying can cause serious psychological damage and even, in extreme cases, suicide.

Classic symptoms of being bullied might include:

- Not wanting to go to school
- Trying to avoid particular lessons/days
- Avoiding other children
- Unexplained damage to clothing or belongings
- Unexplained minor injuries
- “Mislaid” books or belongings
- Under-achievement
- Personality change
- Poor sleeping
- Lack of confidence
- Nightmares
- Bed wetting

If bullying is suspected or reported, the “incident” will usually be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached. He/She should listen carefully and record all details of any bullying incident in the Incident Book. The incident book will be reviewed by the Headmaster on a half-termly basis to enable patterns to be identified.

If bullying has clearly taken place, the Headmaster and relevant staff should be informed (via Staff Meeting and / or memo). Appropriate punitive action will be taken, which will include contacting the bully’s parents, detention and, in extreme cases, exclusion or expulsion. The bully will receive constructive support to enable them to understand the behaviour expected of all pupils (with reference to the Code

of Conduct or Golden Rules), what behaviour is unacceptable, and to learn that good behaviour is a better way.

Support for the victim may take a variety of forms. Critically, however, absolute reassurance must be given that the bullying has ceased and the victim will be encouraged to keep in contact with an appropriate member of staff, in order to confirm that there is no repetition of bullying.

An awareness of the nature of bullying will be raised through Staff discussion (eg highlighting areas where bullying might occur), Chapel services, R.E lessons and Form Periods. Through the many PSHE opportunities, an anti bullying culture at Durlston is enforced.

**The Code of Conduct** is central to the school's stance against bullying.

This Policy should be taken in conjunction with the following other policies:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy
- Behaviour (Rewards and Sanctions) Policy

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

*Updated: September 2010*