



LARKRISE SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

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Guide to the Law reference – Behaviour
Link: School Discipline and Pupil Behaviour

**Larkrise School
Trowbridge**

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

1. Introduction

Larkrise School is a mixed day school for pupils with severe, profound and complex special needs. Pupils range in age from 4 to 19 years and come from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Our Anti-bullying Policy complies with the Human Rights Act, 1998, and the Race Relations Amendment Act, 2000.

Larkrise School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell staff.

2. Definition of Bullying

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be:

Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
Racist	Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
Sexual	Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
Homophobic	Because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
Verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
Cyber chatroom	All areas of Internet, such as email and Internet misuse Mobile threats by text messaging and calls Misuse of associated technology, for example, camera and video facilities

3. Aims and Objectives

All teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils, governors and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.

All teaching and non-teaching staff should know what is the school policy on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.

All pupils and parents should know what is the school policy on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.

As a school, we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Bullying will not be tolerated.

4. Procedures to Follow

- a. Pupils should report bullying incidents to staff or a member of the School Council.
- b. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
- c. In serious cases, parents will be informed and asked to come in to school for a meeting to discuss the problem.
- d. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- e. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
- f. An attempt will be made to help the bully or bullies change their behaviour.

5. Outcomes

- a. The bully or bullies may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- b. In serious cases, a fixed period exclusion may be considered.
- c. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
- d. After the incident or incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- e. Staff will be informed of any incidents on a 'need to know' basis, ensuring confidentiality for all concerned.
- f. Staff involved in witnessing and/or reporting incidents will be supported by the Senior Management Team.

6. Policy Review

The Policy will be reviewed by the Senior Management Team and the Child Protection Lead as and when necessary, in the light of new legislation or initiatives.

Phil Cook
Headteacher & Child Protection Lead

Appendix I

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

A child may indicate by signs or behaviours 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 coming to school
- is unwilling to come to school
- does not want to go on the school minibus
- changes their usual routine
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens to run away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn
- has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing'
- asks for money or starts stealing money
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what is wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

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

Appendix II

ANTI-BULLYING GUIDELINES

1. Larkrise School aims to ensure that all pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.
2. Bullying is anti-social behaviour that can affect everyone. It is unacceptable in Larkrise School and will not be tolerated.
3. Larkrise School has a duty under the 'School Standards and Framework Act 1998':
 - to produce guidelines to prevent bullying amongst pupils; and
 - to bring these guidelines to the attention of staff, parents and pupils.
4. Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.
5. The three main types of bullying are:
 - physical – hitting, kicking, theft;
 - verbal – name calling, racist remarks; and
 - indirect – spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups.
6. Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, unexplained absences from school or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns or lapses of concentration.
7. When bullying is suspected or reported staff are encouraged to:
 - deal with the incident immediately in line with Larkrise School's Behaviour Policy;
 - inform their Line Manager who will inform the Headteacher; and
 - keep a clear account of the incident.

The Class Teacher and/or Head of Department will instigate or review the pupil's behaviour modification programme. All staff will be informed and updated.

8. Within the curriculum, Larkrise School will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through:
 - inclusion in Personal, Social and Health Education activities;
 - assemblies;
 - Circle Time activities;
 - Speech and Language Therapy sessions; and
 - other subject areas, as appropriate.

9. Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:
- an immediate opportunity to communicate/discuss the experience with a staff member (of their own choice, where possible);
 - ongoing support and reassurance, where appropriate; and
 - activities across the curriculum to restore self-esteem and confidence.