

MAGDALEN COURT SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Code*(For more detail see Pastoral Care)***Principles**

Every person has the **RIGHT** to feel secure and happy at MAGDALEN COURT School. Our School Community will not tolerate any unkind actions or remarks.

Any unkind actions or comments will be called bullying.

No child should suffer verbal abuse.
No child should suffer physical violence.
No child should feel victimised by another.

Every child has a **RESPONSIBILITY** to ensure that harassment is not tolerated.

Every child is **ENTITLED** to the respect of others.

Children are expected to report all forms of Bullying.

Staff guarantee to take the matter seriously and deal with each incident appropriately and discreetly.

Bullies can expect to be punished.

Persistent offenders may be excluded, in extreme cases, permanently.

We are a 'telling' School – bullying is too serious not to report.

Bullying is one aspect of behaviour which causes hurt and anxiety to children. The possibility of any form of bullying taking place in school is an issue which often causes parents some concern.

A child is considered to be a bully if she/he knowingly commits unkind acts towards another individual.

Bullying may include:-

Physical harm or threat of physical harm.
Destroying, damaging or hiding property.
Spreading rumours.
Name calling or teasing.
Deliberately excluding someone from an activity.

Any child or children who wilfully cause distress to other children will be accused of bullying.

Procedures for dealing with cases of Bullying

All suspicions of bullying will be reported to the Head Teacher.

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If members of staff suspect any form of bullying which they feel needs attention, the following guidelines should be followed.

1. **Notify the form teacher immediately.** He or she will be able to initiate discreet enquiries and decide if any further action is required.
2. Form teachers must inform the Head Teacher and must also advise other members of the staff where necessary and relevant.
3. If concern still exists, the Head Teacher will then follow up as necessary, possibly with the involvement of the parents. If appropriate, a brief confidential note will be posted in the staff room telling others what to look for and how to help. In cases of need, a meeting will be called. Matters should be referred to the Head Teacher.
4. If parents themselves report a concern to you that their child (or another) is being bullied then this should be dealt with immediately, as above.
5. The informal, discreet and sensitive approach has proved very successful in the rare genuine cases dealt with to date, and it is important to maintain this general level of tact for the sake of the children and of the school.
6. Bullying **is serious** and can take a multitude of different forms, both verbal and physical. However, please remember that, whilst staff should be aware of procedure in the event of bullying, it can be just as dangerous to over-react or exaggerate the gravity of a situation. Wherever possible, the term "**Bullying**" should be avoided as, often, it conjures up the worst in people's minds. It could cause people to become unduly concerned about something which may ultimately turn out to be a minor and isolated incident.
7. Use time during PSHCE classes to talk about bullying/intimidation in general.
8. Remember, often those thought to be responsible also need help.

Bullying/Exclusions

National Statistics indicate that there will be sometimes be cases of bullying in any school community.

It is VITAL that all adult members of our school community should be constantly vigilant to ensure that any situations where bullying is taking place are quickly perceived, and then dealt with, with thoroughness and with sensitivity.

The Elton Report stresses that it is important for all to recognise that bullying need not be confined purely to physical maltreatment; mental bullying found such activities as racism, taunting, constant name calling, sexual discrimination, being cruel to each other etc. can be equally damaging.

Bullying behaviour should be seen and dealt with in the context of our overall School Behaviour Policy document. Any such behaviour which betrays the quality of the

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relationships in our community must be seen for what it is- destructive, and totally unacceptable.

Any bullying incident which occurs should be reported immediately to the class teacher of the 'bullied' child. The class teacher will investigate the matter, and seek to resolve each situation, as appropriate, in consultation with colleagues.

Simple statements of the details of the incident, and of the way it has been resolved, should be made by the class teacher in writing and this information should be available to teacher colleagues as the child concerned moves up the school.

The Head Teacher should be informed at all times when it is considered necessary for the parents of the children to be involved.

Signed.....

Date.....

To be reviewed by