

Anti-Bullying policy

Appletree Treatment Centre (ATC)



Approved by: Rob Davies (Headteacher)

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Bullying

Happily, most children go through their childhood without being bullied, unfortunately though some children are bullied, and this can lead to them becoming unhappy, withdrawn, afraid and even affect their school work, their relationship with friends, family and staff. It would be naïve and wrong to state categorically that bullying never occurs at Appletree Treatment Centre but what can be stated with conviction is that we do our utmost to prevent bullying. No person deserves to be bullied.

What is bullying?

Very simply, bullying happens when a person is subject to "repeated" harmful acts over a period of time by person or persons. Bullying can involve physical or verbal attacks name-calling, malicious gossip, damaging or stealing the property of the victim or coercing the victim into acts which they do not wish to do. Bullying can focus on an individual's race, gender, disability or sexual orientation, class or religion. Adults may bully as well as children and adults can bully other adults.

Telltale signs of bullying

A person may indicate signs or behaviours that she or he is being bullied such as:

- Being unwilling to go to school
- Starting to do poorly in their schoolwork
- Becoming withdrawn
- Becoming distressed
- Stopping eating
- Crying themselves to sleep
- Not joining in activities
- Staying close to adults
- Not wanting to go out at break times
- Having nightmares
- Having unexplained bruises, scratches or cuts
- Having their possessions "go missing"
- Refusing to say what's wrong when their behaviour deteriorates
- Refusing to go to bed
- Wetting the bed at night

What we do

Firstly from day one all children and staff are told clearly that bullying is not tolerated. Everyone is expected to ensure that it does not happen and has the responsibility to tell. Appletree Treatment Centre has taken into consideration the 'Behaviour and Discipline in the School and home, a Guide to Head teachers and School Staff' at www.education.gov.uk.



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Secondly we aim to provide a consistent and structured organisation within a friendly and sympathetic environment where opportunities arise and incentives are given for children / young people to develop the caring, nurturing and co-operative sides of their nature and build friendships. This includes supporting children who, for whatever reason, do not fit into the group.

Thirdly we place greater emphasis on the National Curriculum which has one of its cross-curricular themes, Personal, Health and Social Education. Bullying is one of the areas discussed in the classroom.

Fourthly we encourage children to openly share their feeling or problems by

1. Talking to their individual assigned house tutor worker during individual sessions or at other times
2. Bringing up issues at the twice daily meetings
3. Talking to any member of staff they can trust
4. Talking to the Principal or Seniors on Call
5. Telling a friend
6. Talking to their Social Worker or Education Welfare Officer
7. Ringing the Independent Listener
8. Ringing the local Child Protection Team, Childline or NSPCC (numbers kept on the notice board).

Fifthly we take any complaints made by a child seriously and take action straight away. Any child who appears to be the subject of bullying or who has reported to staff that he or she is being bullied will be closely monitored by staff and strategies implemented to end the bullying.

Finally we never just talk to or sanction a bully for their behaviour. A bully usually bullies for a reason and this must be looked into and hopefully dealt with effectively.

Every child at Appletree Treatment Centre has a right to be happy, safe, feel secure and enjoy their childhood.