

Anti Bullying: Statement of Intent

***Bullying is unacceptable behaviour in our school
and will be challenged with strong actions***

We believe that:

- we are unique as individuals and all at The Voyager School have a right to learn and develop themselves and to accept responsibility as a member of our community of learners;
- everyone at our school has the right to feel safe, respected and to have a sense of belonging;
- individuals' self esteem must be nurtured and encouraged by praise and the celebration of success;
- the Safer School approach (working closely with local Police officers) will assist us in having a fair and high profile response to unacceptable behaviour;
- in our quest for equity and excellence we must be committed to challenging bullying and injustices.

Our vision is of a school where:

- we will work with all our associated partners to ensure that we build and maintain an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect;
- we will take positive and overt action to combat bullying, making the issue part of our curriculum;
- we will support victims, assisting them to manage assertively and involve external partners as well as agencies;
- we will take strong and appropriate actions with the bully in helping them to change their behaviour and where there is evidence of persistent bullying our disciplinary code will be used and could result in exclusion from our school;
- we will define fully in our policy the forms that bullying and anti-social behaviour can take (including the misuse of new technologies) and what we will do as a community of learners to eradicate it from our school;
- we will train all staff to see bullying as a very serious offence, respond and take action;
- we inform parents/carers of our policy and through seminars maintain a high degree of awareness and a pro-active approach within the community of learners;
- we will deal quickly and appropriately with any complaint;
- students are empowered through training to act and support each other as peer counsellors or peer mediators.

Of crucial importance – our students

- The Every Child Matters approach will guide the school's work in keeping each young person at the centre of all that we do in creating a safe, healthy and enriching learning environment.
- It is recognised that young people learn best when they are emotionally secure and our staff will work closely with parents, families and carers to support and nurture our students so that they can enjoy their learning experiences.
- If bullying is suspected we will take action and make contact with parents/carers and families.
- If there is evidence of bullying, action will be taken to include, help, support, counselling and disciplinary measures.
- Victims of bullying will be enabled, and supported, to make a criminal complaint when the circumstances demand.
- We will consider and assess with students the part that restorative justice can play as a positive way to strengthen our approach to the effective management of behaviour for learning.
- Students at The Voyager School have a right to enjoy learning without bullying and intimidation. We will work with our community of learners and a wider group of partners to extend this to the surrounding community.
- We will make a range of staff accessible so that students can talk and we the school will listen.

In order to promote a consistently positive atmosphere in all areas of the school we have adopted the following simple guidelines to ensure there is a calm and purposeful environment in which to work and learn. Our Code of Conduct below outlines clear expectations, rewards and consequences.

Students who keep to lesson expectations will learn well

LESSON EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time and ready to learn
2. Follow instructions
3. Complete all work to the best of your ability
4. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
5. Show respect for yourself and others – no hurtful or insulting language

OUT OF LESSON EXPECTATIONS

- As above plus
6. Move calmly, safely and purposefully around the school



Students will be rewarded for effort and achievement

POSITIVE REWARDS

1. Praise
2. Digital notes and stickers
3. Credits
4. Letters, praise postcards, e-notes and telephone calls home
5. Certificates

For students who cannot meet lesson expectations there will be consequences.

CONSEQUENCES

1. Quiet word
2. Formal warning
3. Move to a different place in the room
4. Letter home to inform parents/referral form
5. Re-direction programme/include/exclusion
6. Governors Discipline Panel

If there is a serious incident, the senior member of staff 'ON CALL' will be contacted and further action will be taken.