

'Being and doing our very best'

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Headteacher : Mr D Simson
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'Pupils feel everyone is kind and caring, and there are trusted adults they could speak to if upset.'

'Pupils feel that bullying is extremely rare and if it were to happen staff deal with it quickly'

Sefton Park Junior School Ofsted Feb 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Every November schools right across the UK take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to highlight bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2024 is taking place from **Monday 11th to Friday 15th November** and it has the theme '**Choose Respect**'

During the week, we will be using activities designed specifically for primary schools by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. We will also be planning cross curricular activities, to weave Anti-Bullying Week throughout the curriculum.

Once again, this year, we'll be celebrating **Odd Socks Day on Tuesday 12th November**.

Odd Socks Day provides a chance for children and adults alike to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a positive way by asking everyone to wear odd socks to school, work or home. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks, it could not be simpler!



WHAT IS BULLYING?

Unfortunately, many children will experience or witness bullying during their school years: they may be the target of bullying, may be involved in bullying others, may stand by while others are being bullied, or may take positive action to stop bullying. When attempting to tackle bullying, it's important that we are all on the same page and understand exactly what bullying is (and isn't).

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as:

The **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**.
Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

Not all incidences of conflict can be understood as bullying. Relational conflict usually involves individuals who are friends, or a situation with no power imbalance involved. It is generally behaviour which happens occasionally, and offence might be accidental. An example might be an argument or falling out with a friend, or experimental 'banter' that unintentionally offended the person on the receiving end.

What bullying isn't: 'falling out'

It's common for children to have arguments and friendship fall outs (often referred to as 'relational conflict') and they will need our guidance to resolve conflict, make amends, and move on.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD IF THEY ARE BEING BULLIED?

As a parent or carer, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are many positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has a free anti-bullying information tool for parents and carers on our website. This tool includes what bullying is, how to work with your school in relation to bullying and how to support your child.

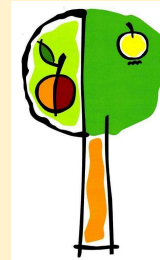
[Information tool for parents and carers](#)



WHAT WILL WE DO?

At Sefton Park Infant and Junior Schools we believe that all members of the school community should feel valued, safe and secure and have a right to work and learn in a relaxed, secure environment free from harassment and bullying.

The exact course of action once bullying has been identified, will vary with each situation but the main objectives should be that bullying incidents are brought into the open, discussed and strategies agreed to help resolve the problem.



Here are some of the steps taken when dealing with a bullying incident:

- The incident should be acknowledged and those involved assured that it will be dealt with.
 - The relevant class teacher(s) should be informed and initially take the lead in dealing with the situation first of all. An investigation should take place to establish the facts.
 - The class teacher should liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who, alongside other members of SLT will determine appropriate action relevant to the age of the children involved.
 - Teachers and break duty staff will be made aware of the situation so that it can be monitored
 - Strategies to support a victim of bullying will be put in place by staff. These may include a buddy from an older class, LSA/SMSA support at lunchtime or the opportunity to talk regularly to a member of staff.
 - Any approach agreed upon will be monitored closely by the class teacher and the progress reported back to SLT and the parents of those children involved.
 - Parents will be notified and kept informed.
 - The school will try hard to support the child using bullying behaviours through mentoring/pastoral support and by setting up home school link systems, working with parental support.
 - Staff will try to support the children in resolving the situation using restorative justice principles.
- This is not simply about 'saying sorry'. Wherever possible, the pupils will be reconciled.

Full details of our Anti-Bullying Policy can be found here:

<https://www.seftonparkschools.co.uk/policies/>

Once again, we thank you for your continued support and cooperation. As ever, please do come and speak to any of the leadership team if you have any questions or worries connected to the above information.

Emily Shuker

Designated Safeguarding Lead