



Little Acorns Forest Schools Ltd

Anti-Bullying Policy

Little Acorns Forest Schools is committed to providing a supportive, caring and safe environment in which all children are free from the fear of being bullied. As a Forest school we take bullying and its impact seriously. Bullying of any form is not tolerated in our school, whether carried out by a child or an adult.

Staff, children and parents or carers will be made aware of Little Acorns Forest Schools position on bullying. Bullying behaviour is unacceptable in any form. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a member of staff. Any child who is a victim of bullying will be dealt with in a sympathetic manner.

If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff informed, and then discussed with the headteacher (if on school site) or with senior management. A clear account of the incident will be recorded. All staff will be informed so that close monitoring of the victim and bully can begin. Parents of both parties will be informed.

What is bullying?

We recognise that many children and young people will experience conflict in their relationships with other children and young people and as a school we are committed to developing empathy and the skills to manage relationships in a peaceful way that does not harm others.

In Little Acorns Forest Schools, our definition of bullying is:

“The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online”.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

There is considerable evidence to show that bullying has both short term and longer term impact on pupils. Bullying impacts on pupils' wellbeing, can impact on attendance and become a significant barrier to learning. Bullying is associated with lower levels of school engagement and achievement both in primary and secondary schools and can lead to mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression.

Bullying is unacceptable. Little Acorns Forest schools will respond promptly and effectively to reported incidents of bullying.

In our school community:

- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everybody has the right to feel happy and safe.
- No-one deserves to be a target of bullying.
- Pupils who bully need to learn different ways of behaving.

National research has shown that some groups of pupils are particularly vulnerable to bullying; these include pupils with SEND, looked after children, pupils from minority ethnic groups or faiths, young carers, LGBT pupils and those perceived to be LGBT.

All members of the school community, including pupils, staff, parents and governors, are expected to treat everyone with dignity and respect at all times. This includes both face-to-face contact and online.

Policy written by: Kate Morison (Lead Practitioner)

Date Created: November 2023

Review annually from November 2024