

## Prevention

School firmly believes that prevention is the best policy. As such, we have developed the following strategies to promote positive behaviour and discourage bullying:

- Restorative Practice, where the main focus is to build a positive learning community of mutual respect and tolerance
- Involvement in the Healthy Schools Programme
- Anti-Bullying week annually in November
- PSHE/Citizenship lessons and cross curricular links including the Anti-Bullying unit
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as cyberbullying and internet safety
- Student voice through Pupil Voice Ambassadors
- Peer Listener schemes and Playground Buddying
- Worry boxes as a means of communication
- Reactive programmes for vulnerable groups or groups involved in bullying. For example, Restorative Practice conferences, Counselling and/or Mediation schemes (e.g. Circle of Friends)
- Open door policy and parent events/information
- Staff training and development



## What can parents do?

At Rossett Acre, we operate an open door policy and would urge parents to report any possible incidents of bullying that have been reported at home.

We are firmly committed to working in partnership with parents and believe that the best outcomes emerge when professionals and parents/carers are able to work together. We expect parents/carers to uphold our anti-bullying policy.

Parents should report to the class teacher in the first instance who will then investigate any concerns. If concerns remain unresolved, parents are then encouraged to speak to key stage leaders who will inform the Head or Deputy Head Teacher.

Once we have been made aware of a situation it is important that any further concerns are also reported whilst we are monitoring.

- Listen and talk to your child. They may feel the situation is beyond their control or feel ashamed – whether they are bullied or bullying. Let them know you love them and want to help. Praise your child for telling you.

- Do not encourage your child to retaliate. This may result in your child being disciplined in the same way as the bully. It also appears to your child that violent or threatening behaviour is an acceptable way of solving problems: moreover, retaliation can perpetuate bullying.

- Help your child to develop coping strategies and help to build their self-confidence.

- Reassure your child that that the school will deal with the matter sensitively but firmly.

- Support your child. Do not seek conflict with the suspected bully or family. Use the school as an intermediary.



# Anti-Bullying Guide For Parents



Rossett Acre Primary School  
'Excellence and Happiness for All'



"STOP bullying!!!"

**Working together with Parents and Carers**

# What is Bullying?

The school uses the following as a definition for bullying.

Bullying is...

‘Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally’

## How does bullying differ from teasing/falling out between friends or other types of aggressive behaviour?

All schools experience incidents of disputes and falling out between pupils, these incidents would not necessarily be classed as bullying.

- Bullying is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate.
- There is imbalance that makes it hard for the victim to defend themselves (imbalance might be a difference in strength (taller vs shorter), a difference in ability (being better at something than somebody else) etc.
- It is persistent.

An incident may be deemed to be bullying if it hasn't been repeated or persistent – if it fulfils all other descriptions of bullying. This possibility should be considered, particularly in cases of hate crime related bullying and cyberbullying. If the victim might be in danger, then intervention is urgently required.

## What does bullying look like?

Bullying can include some of the following and is repeated:

- name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, physical assault,
- taking or damaging belongings
- cyber bullying - inappropriate text messaging and emailing; sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet,
- producing offensive graffiti,
- gossiping and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours,
- repeatedly excluding people from groups.

Although bullying can occur between individuals, it can often take place in the presence (virtually or physically) of others who become the ‘bystanders’ or ‘accessories’.

## What does school do?

**At Rossett Acre, we do not tolerate bullying. All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated involving all parties.**

The school encourages all children to speak to a member of staff they feel comfortable talking to. We recognise that children might also prefer not to speak to a member of staff (particularly bystanders) in case they feel this might worsen the situation or indeed make themselves a ‘target’. To alleviate this, each class has a ‘worry box’ that children can drop a note or their name into. This will then be followed up by members of staff.

## We follow the procedures below when we receive reports of possible bullying:

- Interviewing all parties
- Informing parents – (for all involved, both victim and perpetrator)
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. These are graduated according to the seriousness of the incident but should send out a message that bullying is unacceptable.
- Responses may also vary according to the type of bullying and may involve other agencies where appropriate.
- Follow up ,especially keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation, parents/carers. There is a clear complaints procedure for parents who are not satisfied with the school's actions.
- A range of responses and support appropriate to the situation - e.g. solution focused, restorative approach, circle of friends, individual work with victim, perpetrator, referral to outside agencies if appropriate.
- Liaising with the wider community if the bullying is taking place off the school premises i.e. in the case of cyberbullying or hate crime.