



Walter Infant School

Murray Road • Wokingham • RG41 2TA
Tel: 0118 978 0825

www.walter.wokingham.sch.uk
admin@walter.wokingham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Judy Wheeler

Friday 20th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We have already sent out parent questionnaires to our Foundation Stage families and will be sending them to Key Stage 1 parents this week. We find the information that you share with us very useful.

Each year I notice that some parents are unable to share their view on point 7: This school deals effectively with bullying.

I thought it might be helpful to share some information with you.

We rarely have complaints about bullying at Walter Infant School, but if we do we take the matters very seriously. Often children can describe behaviour as 'bullying' when it is unpleasant or unkind behaviour.

This year we have done a great deal of work to raise the profile of bullying behaviour so that the children understand what it is, what it looks like and what to do if they become aware of it.

We have worked closely with the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA); all our staff completed two training courses run by the ABA and we monitor the behaviour of all our children very closely to ensure they feel safe and happy at school.

In November 2017 we held an Anti-bullying week: the children had lessons about bullying behaviour, we had several assemblies and we invited our parents to come in to find out what we do to address or prohibit bullying behaviour at Walter Infant School: These sessions were very well attended. You may recall the children coming into school wearing odd socks for a week to celebrate that we are all different but all equally important.

The children made posters to display around the school to share our anti-bullying messages and to inform each other about what to do if they think they think someone, including themselves, is being bullied.

We also have regular assemblies focussing on our school values to share the importance of playing nicely and treating each other with respect; we celebrate acts of kindness using our 'Kindness Tree'.



A member of



The University of Reading ITT Partnership



We worked with the NSPCC to raise awareness of how important it is to 'Speak Out' about any concerns children may have, including bullying behaviour.

We have an Anti-bullying and Equality Policy which is shared on our school website which states:

Walter Infant School is a caring community; our school aims describe an establishment built around respect, responsibility and equality. The school behaviour policy is designed to support this ethos. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure, and able to give their best.

All forms of bullying and discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We define bullying as the repeated and deliberate action by an individual or a group that is an attempt to control/have power over an individual. A conflict between two equals is not considered bullying.

The school does not typically interpret these situations as bullying:

- Naturally boisterous behaviour
- The tendency to boss whoever is around

Bullying can be:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours.

Bullying may include discrimination, harassment and victimisation and may be associated with race, disability, Special Educational Needs, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or other vulnerable groups.

We recognise that bullying behaviour can be:

- Child to child
- Children to child
- Adult to child
- Adults to child
- Adult to adult
- Adults to adult

At Walter Infant School we aim to prevent bullying of any kind and create an ethos where acceptance, tolerance and respect for others are promoted in all we do. The school will act to prevent bullying occurring in the first place. Through the school ethos (i.e. positive relationships, modelling preferred behaviour, use of assemblies, circle times, rewards and sanctions), children will be taught appropriate behaviour and social skills which reflect the ethos of caring/valuing each other and which raises their self-esteem.

The school will act on all reported acts of perceived bullying as soon as possible, following the procedure flow chart (see **Appendix 2**) recording the incidents and passing the information to the Headteacher.



A member of



The University of Reading ITT Partnership



Children will be encouraged to:

- Always report any bullying of themselves or others – telling is OK
- Say no in a very loud voice
- Ask the perpetrator to stop
- Tell a member of staff straight away
- Never join in with bullying behaviour
- Reflect on their own behaviour and how they can show that they care for each other

Parents will be asked to:

- Inform the school immediately if they are aware of or suspect bullying is taking place
- Keep the school informed of any further incidents
- Encourage children not to be aggressive and treat others in the way they want to be treated
- Support the school if further action needs to be taken

Governors will:

- Satisfy themselves that the school policy and systems are preventative, yet capable of dealing effectively with bullying should it occur.

The staff and governors will promote anti-bullying and continue to reinforce what bullying behaviour is:

- Bullying behaviour is repeated behaviour that happens more than once
- If children feel they are experiencing bullying behaviour or they think someone else is, they must tell an adult they trust.
- We say 'NO' to bullying behaviour at Walter Infant School

**The impact of our policy will be assessed through:**

- Termly analysis of behavioural incidents and exclusions analysis
- The School Council
- Pupil and parent surveys

We have a rigorous process for investigating, recording and reporting bullying behaviour and the number of bullying or hate incidents are shared with our governing body.

I am very happy to say that we rarely have any behaviours that are bullying behaviours; naturally some of children fall out, call each other names or threaten to 'tell the teacher'. Sometimes the children play aggressively or even hurt each other (this is very rare). All these behaviours are unpleasant but we monitor the occurrences very carefully for patterns and triggers.

We have a robust behaviour policy that we follow consistently and all our children can demonstrate a good understanding of how the policy is implemented at school (a copy of our behaviour policy is also on our website).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Judy Wheeler
Headteacher



A member of



The University of Reading ITT Partnership

