



Happiness and Friendship

Information leaflet for Parents/Carers

This leaflet is intended to provide a summary of our Anti-Bullying Policy which can be found on the school website.

If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Dray parents@stamford-green.surrey.sch.uk or 01372 725383

Aims of this leaflet

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide Parents/Carers with:

- Information on how as a school we enable our children to be good friends, to be responsible for their actions and understand their own feelings and those of others around them.
- Information on how we enable children to deal with the ups and downs of friendship.
- Information on how we teach children about the difference between friendship falling out and bullying, and what to do if they think they are being bullied.
- Information on how we deal with incidents of bullying within school, should they occur.

'Pupils behave with consistently high levels of respect for others. They play a highly positive role in creating a school environment in which commonalities are identified and celebrated, difference is valued and nurtured, and bullying, harassment and violence are never tolerated.' (OFSTED July 2022)

How do we teach children about Friendship?

Friendship is one of our school values which we explore as a whole school.

At Stamford Green Primary School and Nursery, the Behaviour Ambassadors help us to find friends. All the Ambassadors wear badges so that they can be easily recognised. Their duties include:

- To look out for lonely people
- Be an extra pair of ears and eyes
- Be happy and smile
- Be kind and helpful
- Suggest games and come up with ideas

- Respect others
- Set a good example
- Be active
- Be encouraging

They wear their badges with pride but know that if all else fails... get an adult!

What should you do if your child tells you about bullying?

- Listen without getting angry or upset.
- Reassure your child that it is not their fault and that it is good to tell.
- Involve your child and ask, "How do you want me to take this forward?"

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone keeps doing or saying things to have power over another person. Ofsted defines bullying as aggressive or insulting behaviour by an individual or group, often repeated over a period of time that intentionally hurts or harms. It is difficult for victims to defend themselves against it. 'Behaviour by an individual or group usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally'. Safe to Learn: embedding anti bullying work in schools (2007).

Bullying differs from teasing or falling out between friends or other types of aggressive behaviour when it is persistent and either:

- There is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate, or
- There is a power imbalance that makes it hard for the victim to defend themselves.

Sometimes other things happen which make us upset, but unless they fit the things above they are probably not bullying. So falling out with your friend is not bullying, because friends usually make up pretty quickly and friends shouldn't be trying to hurt each other on purpose.

How do we teach children about Bullying?

Following on from the lessons on friendship across the school, each year group will then be involved in teaching sessions that look at understanding bullying. All year groups will look at: What is bullying? and What to do if you think you or someone else is being bullied?

How do we deal with bullying in school?

Our school has a clear system to report bullying for the whole school community (including staff, parents/carers and children). This includes those who are the victims of bullying or have witnessed bullying behaviour (bystanders).

Any child, parent/carer or visitor to the school who is a victim of bullying or has witnessed an incident of bullying should immediately inform a member of staff.

We are against bullying so children are actively encouraged to tell someone if they witness or experience any form of unkindness. All children are encouraged to report incidents of bullying to their class teacher through our, "Worry Box" if appropriate or to a member of staff whom they feel comfortable with. The "Worry Box" provides an opportunity to report incidents anonymously if preferred, however, without names investigations could be limited.

All reported incidents will be taken seriously and investigated involving all parties.

The school will amongst other possible actions:

- Interview all parties
- Inform relevant parents
- Implement an appropriate cause of action - which matches the age and maturity of those involved and the type of incident which has occurred.

- Refer to the Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Follow up especially keeping in touch with the person who reported the situation, parents/carers and most importantly the victim
- Provide support for both the victim and the bully.

If you are concerned that your child is being bullied please, in the first instance, speak to their class teacher who will follow school procedures as outlined fully in the Anti-Bullying Policy.

What happens if my child is upsetting others?

If you suspect your child is upsetting or bullying another child or other children, don't ignore it. A child who is bullying others often has problems of his or her own. Try to understand what may be causing this behaviour and think about what is going on in your own home. Bullying can be subtle, so watch your child's behaviour closely.

Consider the following:

- Is your child going through a difficult time?
- Does your child feel overlooked or over-shadowed?
- Could your child be copying someone else's behaviour - maybe an adult or older sibling at home?
- Do other members of your family use aggression or force to get what they want?
- Are you allowing your child to use aggression or force to get what they want from other people?
- Make sure your child understands that bullying is unacceptable. Encourage your child to be friendly, understanding and kind to others.

Further information

www.bullying.co.uk

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.besomeonetotell.org.uk

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk