

At Thorntree we have a number of aims relating to zero tolerance of bullying. We aim to:

- ◆ Provide a safe, happy and caring environment for all members of the school community.
- ◆ Promote high standards of learning, achievement and behaviour for all members of the school community
- ◆ Value, support and celebrate the many different ways that people can learn and achieve their potential.
- ◆ Value diversity within our own school, community and the wider world.
- ◆ Respect the rights and views of other people and acknowledge our own responsibilities as citizens.

Our Code Of Conduct

At Thorntree we enjoy our right to:

- 1.Learn and teach well
- 2.Respect each other
- 3.Feel safe and be safe

To support us all in living up to our responsibilities and enjoying our rights we have 7 school rules.

At Thorntree:

- 1.We look after our school and each other
- 2.We keep our hands and feet to ourselves
- 3.We move around school safely and sensibly
- 4.We always try to improve
- 5.We always tell the truth
- 6.We are polite and well mannered
- 7.We help each other keep the school rules

THORNTREE



PRIMARY SCHOOL

BULLYING:

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

We take bullying very seriously at Thorntree and adopt a zero tolerance approach to all bullying behaviour. We aim to teach all our children excellent social behaviour as well as high standards in academic learning. The inclusion of all our children is very important to us.

This leaflet has been produced to help you understand how we deal with incidents of bullying in school.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS - being healthy - staying safe - enjoying and achieving - making a positive contribution - well being.

INCLUSION MATTERS—Learning and working together for the good of all our children.

Many children display behaviour that can be interpreted as bullying. This does not make them 'bad' children. It does mean that they should be supported in developing more appropriate, successful behaviour and in understanding that bullying, like any form of violence is wrong.

BULLYING IS:

- Persistent and unprovoked violence, aggression or threats (verbal or physical) to intimidate someone
- Ganging up on people
- Persistent name calling
- Ostracising children.

BULLYING IS NOT:

- Being hurt when you've been fighting
- Not playing with someone you've fallen out with
- A one off incident of inappropriate behaviour

This behaviour may not be desirable or even acceptable but it is not bullying.

A RESTORATIVE APPROACH

Our aim is for all children to be friendly with each other and for both perpetrators and victims to get along. Victims of bullying need to be aware of how school will support them so they can deal with situations, including taking responsibility for telling an adult. A victim's views will be sought whenever we deal with instances of bullying. They are always consulted and listened to.

We also seek to engage the child whose behaviour has been aggressive or threatening, in taking responsibility for restoring the situation. We ask them how they might put things right and then expect them to do so. By making children part of the problem, we teach them good behaviour and social responsibility. When a child takes responsibility and restores his or her relationship with the victim we may choose to not involve other adults. Children then put things right without their parents being informed. This involves a win-win approach, the victim is no longer bullied and the perpetrator has his or her privacy respected. Of course in persistent and more serious cases we would involve parents or carers.

SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Issues such as bullying, peer pressure and good social behaviour are taught explicitly through our whole school SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) curriculum, assemblies and circle time.

We treat all reports of bullying very seriously. The Head Teacher or a senior teacher will listen carefully to incidents reported by children, parents or carers. They will investigate the incident and respond as soon as possible.

PUPIL RESPONSIBILITIES

We expect any child who feels they are being bullied to tell us, preferably before they go home. Children often forget the whole story and can have rather selective memories about incidents. By knowing as soon after the event as possible, staff can investigate incidents more effectively. All pupils are expected to tell an adult if they see or hear bullying. Standing by watching is not acceptable, people standing by watching are part of the problem if they do nothing to help.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

We ask parents and carers to tell us immediately if their child talks about bullying involving either themselves or others. We also ask that you support our policy of a restorative approach and our Behaviour and Discipline Policy. We understand that bullying is an emotional issue and ask that you do not leave situations until they have become serious.

'LEAVING PEOPLE OUT'

Our code of conduct ensures that children know we do not accept 'leaving people out' as this makes children very unhappy and unable to learn to the best of their ability.