

Ysgol Y Foel



Policy for Anti Bullying

Approved:	September 2020
Next Review:	September 2022
Headteacher	Mrs E O'Neill
Chair of Governors	Mrs S Kneale

This policy has been adopted from the agreed and published policy by the Local Education Authority

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Definition

Bullying can be described as being ‘a deliberate act done to cause distress solely in order to give a feeling of power, status or other gratification to the bully. After discussing bullying with our children in Circle Time our school defines bullying as ‘repeated, on-going series of incidents which casts a shadow over a child’s life.’ It can range from ostracising, name-calling, teasing, threats and extortion, through to physical assault on persons and/or their property or indirectly by spreading nasty stories, sending malicious emails or texts on mobile phones.

Ysgol Y Foel recognises that certain identities can be bullied. These include:

- Bullying around race, religion and culture
- Bullying involving learners with special educational needs and disabilities
- Homophobic bullying
- Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying

At Ysgol Y Foel staff, parents and children work together to create a happy, caring, learning environment. Bullying, either verbal, physical or indirect will not be tolerated. It is everyone’s responsibility to aim to prevent occurrences of bullying and to deal with any incidents quickly and effectively. Research has shown time and time again that the extent of bullying in schools is greatly underestimated.

Bullying can be brought to the attention of staff either by the victim(s), their friend(s), their parent(s) or other interested people.

Strategy for dealing with bullying

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too - that is why they bully.

- Discussions at length with the victim. This will require patience and understanding. Remember - Listen, believe, act
- Identify the bully/bullies. Obtain witnesses if possible. Advise the Headteacher
- Discussions with the bully. Confront them with the details (being careful not to put words into their mouths) and ask them to tell the truth about the situation/incident. Make it clear that bullying is not acceptable at Ysgol Y Foel.

- If they own up then follow the procedure outlined below and in the Behaviour Policy
- If they do not own up, investigate further. If it is clear that they are lying, continue with the procedure. Children usually own up if presented with all the facts
- Inform the parents if their child has bullied making clear that often as children move through primary years they are learning what constitutes bullying behaviours as most do not realise that what they are doing is in fact bullying in the first instance.
- Separate discussions with parents of bully and victim
- Sanctions for the bully may include loss of play time, withdrawal from favoured activities, exclusion from school during lunchtimes, exclusion from school, depending on the perceived severity of the incident(s)
- Continue monitoring the situation by observing at playtimes/lunchtimes throughout the school day and having discussions with victim to ensure no repetition
- As the behaviour of the bully (hopefully) improves, then favoured activities etc can be reinstated, and the child should be praised for good behaviour. This will rebuild the child's self-esteem, which may have been damaged after being caught bullying, or could have been low anyway, hence the bullying

In order to identify incidents of bullying and the identities of bullies, at Ysgol Y Foel we have agreed to carry out the following strategies:

- All staff watch for early signs of distress in pupils
- All staff listen, believe, act
- Bully/Worry boxes in school where children can put written notes if they feel they cannot talk about their problem
- Class Circle Time
- The Childline telephone number to be displayed clearly in school

Staff should make use of the document 'Respecting Others: Anti-bullying Guidance' which can be accessed from www.wales.gov.uk/respectingothers and lessons available on Hwb.

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