

18 November 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

This week has been anti-bullying week nationally and as a school we have made this the focus of our assemblies and Life Skills lessons. The theme this year has been to "Reach Out" and this is exactly what we have been encouraging our students to do, with a theme of "Always share, because we care", highlighting how students can share their concerns in a safe and confidential way.

We have also highlighted the guidance that exists in their planner, on the <u>school website</u> and posters around school. We have now implemented three 'Worry Boxes' around school so students can post any issues in these locations too. Students have been told which staff they can talk to should they need to reach out and these are also highlighted below:



We discussed the definition of bullying with students as being:

"Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online"

We also talked about the different types of bullying they may encounter and what they should do.

Bullying behaviour can be:

- Physical pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc.
- Verbal name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.
- **Emotional** isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- **Sexual** unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- **Online/Cyber** posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- **Indirect** Can include the exploitation of individuals.

As a school we are determined to stamp out bullying and always deal swiftly with any cases that may be reported to us. We recognise that this can be extremely complex at times but please always contact the school should you have any concerns about bullying or how it has been dealt with. It is also worth mentioning again, many of the issues that we deal with in school occur outside of school hours and frequently on social media and this poses a significant challenge to our staff. I would urge all parents and students to share any concerns that they may have as this is the only way the school can begin to tackle the issues and work with other agencies where appropriate.

We would encourage all parents to:

- Carefully monitor social media engagement.
- Check that only platforms that are age appropriate are being used.
- Encourage your child to report anything of concern and screen shot where possible.
- Never engage in behaviours that might be seen as bullying online or risk their own safety.

This term we have also focussed on kindness and the use of derogatory language, particularly racist, sexist and homophobic. Our campus wildly important goal continues to be "To embed a culture of kindness and excellence" and this is what we are working hard to achieve. We want all students to feel safe, supported and confident that appropriate action will be taken.

Yours sincerely

W.M.

W Teece Headteacher