

## **Anti-Bullying**

Middleton School is committed to providing the best educational experience for every child. Each member of the Middleton School community has the right to feel safe and secure at school and shares the responsibility for helping to prevent bullying.

Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and the victims. It also affects those who watch, and less aggressive children can be drawn in by peer pressure. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child be best able to benefit from the opportunities available at Middleton School.

Middleton school is committed to anti-bullying. In the first instance, please contact your son/daughter's Class teacher/Team Leader/Key Stage Leader to raise any concerns. Any bullying incidents which will be dealt with quickly and effectively.

### **Anti-bullying Statement**

We define bullying as all forms of physical aggression and verbal abuse.

Bullying is:

- deliberately hurtful
- sustained over a period of time
- difficult for victims to defend themselves against

Bullying can be:

- physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- indirect – spreading stories, exclusion from social groups

We aim, as a school, to promote a safe and secure environment for adults and children where all can work and learn without anxiety.

Pupils should be encouraged not to suffer in silence. We aim to create a culture in which pupils feel safe and supported if they tell. All incidents of bullying should be reported as soon as possible to a member of staff. Pupils should be encouraged to tell someone if they think someone else is being bullied.

When bullying is reported the school will;

- speak to all those involved to establish the facts
- adopt a problem solving approach
- inform parents of victims and bullies
- follow up repeatedly, checking that bullying has not resumed
- ask for help from agencies such as the NSPCC or police if the problem is persistent or difficult to sort out

Bullying will be regularly addressed through assemblies and the circle time sessions in all classes.