

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

SUMMER PROGRAMMES

Anti-Bullying Policy

Sevenoaks School Summer Programme is proactive in ensuring that staff and pupils know that bullying is unacceptable. The Summer Programme aims to create an ethos of mutual respect between all members of the community, and to ensure all pupils are confident that reported instances of bullying and unkindness will be followed up swiftly, sensitively and effectively by staff. Bullying on the basis of protected characteristics is taken particularly seriously. There is a continuum between teasing and bullying. Bullying, however, is defined as behaviour by an individual or group, sometimes repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can have serious long-term psychological impacts on those affected. It can take place between pupils, between pupils and staff or between staff. Bullying can be motivated by prejudice, by actual or perceived differences, e.g. race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender, homophobia, SEN, disability, because a child is adopted or a carer. Bullying may involve an imbalance of power which makes it difficult for the victim to defend themselves.

Bullying can be:

- **Verbal** Name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing or banter
- **Emotional** Excluding, hiding possessions, threatening gestures, humiliation
- **Physical** Pushing, hitting, kicking or threatening to do so
- **Racist, religious, cultural** Taunting, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual** Unwanted physical contact, comments, homophobic abuse
- **Sexist** Imposing stereotypical images, victimising someone because of their gender
- **Cyber (electronic/digital/online means)** digitally through social network sites, mobile phones, text messages, photographs or other images, sexting, emails etc. This can happen at all times of day, with a potentially bigger audience and therefore more accessories to the bullying.
- **Other** e.g. related to SEN, disabilities

Throughout the Sevenoaks School Summer Programme there is an emphasis on kindness and openness, and on consideration and tolerance of others. Differences such as ethnicity, gender or sexuality which can motivate bullying are openly discussed in the induction and pupils are made aware that bullying is unacceptable. The policy is referred to in the welcome pack and it is also in the Staff Handbook. In addition, bullying is covered in new staff induction by the Director and occasionally raised and discussed at staff meetings to ensure staff are aware of legal responsibilities, and this policy (which includes steps to be taken) and that for some pupils with SEN or disabilities or who are LGBTQ+ the Summer Programme may need to seek specialist skills.

If a pupil is being bullied, feels they are being treated unkindly or insensitively or made unhappy/uncomfortable or feel that this is happening to someone else they should tell a member of staff, or their parents who should inform the Director.

The Director will listen to what they have to say and agree what should be done next. With the exception of physical bullying (which is rare), problems can usually be dealt with discreetly by discussing the matter with the other person(s), and keeping all parents, as appropriate, informed. The focus is on the need for pupils to recognise and regret the impact of their deeds and words, and on reconciliation and as quickly as possible before things escalate. In more complex situations, where hurt has been caused and inflicted on both sides, a reconciliation through mediated conversations in the presence of the Director is always our aim. Experience shows that when sanctions are not immediately imposed, pupils are more likely to seek help and can be helped to understand and change their behaviour.

When a case of unintentional unkindness or bullying has been dealt with, the Director will speak to the pupil about two days later. If the matter is unresolved, the matter will be dealt with more severely. Sanctions will depend on the severity of the bullying and the ages of those involved. The Summer Programme operates a tiered warning system ranging from a verbal warning to exclusion.

A bullying incident should be treated as a child protection concern where there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm', and will be raised with the local safeguarding board.

All instances of bullying must be referred to the Director, who will keep a record and review and evaluate policy annually.

The School's policy is based on Safe to Learn: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools, DCSF, revised November 2007 and has been revised to take into account non-statutory DfE advice *Preventing and Tackling Bullying* DfE October 2017 and Cyberbullying: Advice for Headteachers and school staff (2014):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf