

What is bullying?

The term bullying is used very loosely at times. Some sort of definition is helpful when trying to understand events which may happen in or out of school. Our view is that for the term to be applied, a number of ingredients must be present.

There should be a degree of inequality in relationship.

There must be intent to cause harm or unhappiness.

The process will be sustained.

What is NOT bullying?

We judge that an incident is not bullying in the following circumstances:

If it involves two children who just can't get on with one another.

A falling out

Any 'one off' incident.

Name calling if between two equal parties?

If there is no intent to cause significant harm or unhappiness.



What should I do?

The first and most important step is to tell someone. Where bullying happens it relies on silence. The biggest fear that children have is that telling will make it worse. We promise you and your child that nothing will happen unless they are happy with it. If your child is unhappy and you feel it may be due to bullying, ensure they realise that nothing can be done unless they tell someone.

What will the school do about it?

The first thing we will do is to listen, take you seriously and be discreet.

The next thing we will do is to find out as much as we can about what has been happening. After this we will agree on a strategy with your child and only when they are perfectly happy will we proceed to resolve the situation.

What happens next?

There is a very wide range of possible approaches. The school initially takes a 'no blame' route. This offers the possibility of a resolution without recourse to sanctions or punishments and gives the best end product. The aim is to stop the behaviour and ensure that there is no question of 'afters'. We want both parties to be able to get on afterwards with neither resentment nor gloating.

The school maintains a written record where instances of bullying occur. Bullying is a terrible experience and although rare at Staveley, we take it very seriously. In most cases we are able to resolve issues both quickly and finally. Generally letting a

bully know that their actions have been noticed will bring about this change. Very occasionally it may be necessary to intervene in a stronger way. Our aim is always the same:

To stop bullying and to make sure it does not re-occur.

Stopping any follow up is infinitely more important than punishment or retribution.

A parent's role

There are few events better guaranteed to 'light the blue touch paper' than if we believe our child is being bullied. In this circumstance we need to be both sympathetic and critical. They need our support and understanding but they also need us to dig a little to find out as much as possible. Children know our weaknesses as parents and if attention is the aim they may use being bullied as a route.

Please try not to become too involved and try to avoid contacting the other child's parents, save this as a very last resort. Try to persuade your child to confide in someone at school or to let you contact school. Again reassure them that things will not 'get out of hand'. You may need to contact school against your child's wishes. If this is the case, the school will deal sensitively with that situation.

Bullying

Tell someone. If you don't say something, nothing will change.

We promise that we will deal with bullying in a way that is agreed with you.

If you tell us about bullying, we won't ever say how we know.

We can and do stop bullying.

It's never just YOU.

What else can I do?



You can call Child Line on

0800 1111

If you have internet access, you can go to:

<http://www.childline.org.uk/bullying.asp>

There is helpful and unbiased information on all aspects of bullying.



Staveley CE Primary School

Brow Lane

Staveley

Cumbria

LA8 9PH

01539 821218

You can email us on
admin@staveley.cumbria.sch.uk OR
head@staveley.cumbria.sch.uk

TELL TELL TELL

If you don't tell someone, it won't stop.

BULLYING

What if my child is being bullied?



**Staveley CE Primary
School**