



Weston Federation Safeguarding Newsletter

September 2023

Issue 20



Weston Federation
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*Hello and welcome to our monthly safeguarding newsletter / update.
If there is any aspect of safeguarding and staying safe you would like us to share please let one of the team know.*

Key Reminders:

Please check the age recommendations for any 'apps' or social media platforms your child may be accessing. Such as Whatsapp (age 16+) and Snapchat (age 13+). We are dealing with an increased number of concerns linked to such platforms in school linked to safeguarding concerns. Thank you.

Bullying – What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone is being hurt either by words or actions **on purpose, more than once / repeatedly**, feels bad because of it, and has a hard time stopping what is happening to them.

It can happen at any time, and it can happen in any place.

Bullying takes place in many types of relationships. It is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out and it can happen **face to face and online**.

Bullying behaviour can harm children physically or emotionally and, although the actual behaviour might not always be repeated, the threat that it might can be sustained over time, typically by actions: looks, messages, confrontations, physical interventions, or the fear of these.

At the Weston Federation, we have policies to help staff spot signs of bullying and step in to stop it happening. This is also designed to prevent bullying happening in the first place.

No one EVER deserves to be bullied. We will not tolerate any form of bullying at Weston Park Primary School.

Bullies often downplay their actions by saying it was a bit of fun, a misunderstanding, a joke, or 'banter' but

at the Weston Federation we want all children to feel safe in the relationships they make with others so that no person has power over another.

In some cases, children may not realise that their behaviour is bullying. They are perhaps modelling the behaviour of adults or other children, not understanding that it is wrong.

In these circumstances, the intent to bully may not be present, but the impact and effect on the person being bullied will be no less severe because of this.

Children and young people will fall out and disagree with each other as they form and build relationships. This is a normal part of growing up and most children and young people have the ability to bounce back from this type of behaviour.

At the Weston Federation we will help the bully to learn better ways to communicate and how to interact more appropriately with their peers.

The use of homophobic or derogatory language (racist, sexist, or homophobic language for example) will always be challenged at Weston Park Primary School as the language itself is unacceptable and could impact on others.

Some forms of bullying however can be exceptionally serious and cross a line with criminal behaviour (from



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age 10 upwards)— there are laws to help children (and adults) who are victims of criminal behaviour that looks like bullying at first such as assault, hate crimes, racial abuse, child sexual exploitation, being coerced/pressured to do something sexual or touched inappropriately and criminal exploitation – grooming.

Our policies detail how seriously we take this aspect of our safeguarding responsibilities and how we will work to support our pupils to know their rights and responsibilities to keep safe



Cyberbullying

Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets—adults and children can be victims of this form of bullying, so we have to be vigilant.

The impact of this bullying can be wide reaching from feeling frightened and intimidated, being the victim of fake gossip or rumours, having photos or videos posted about you, being on the receiving end of language that causes offense and an argument (flaming), threatening behaviour etc.

In addition, people with malicious intent can use the internet for grooming of young and vulnerable people, fraud, stalking, exclusion, blackmail etc.

The internet and social media can be fun and can bring many educational and personal benefits but adult and child alike we must protect ourselves from misuse.

A useful source of information for parents can be found at www.bullying.co.uk.

Our website has further information around online safety and the use of social media platforms and 'apps'.

Across the Weston Federation we will always follow up on all reported concerns relating to cyberbullying

Useful Websites about Bullying

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

www.bullying.co.uk

www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/feelings-and-symptoms/bullying/

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk

www.supportline.org.uk/cyberbullying

www.safeinternet.org.uk

How to stop CYBERBULLYING

- STOP** LOG OFF the site where the bullying is happening.
- BLOCK** BLOCK EMAILS or messages. Don't respond to them.
- RECORD** SAVE THE MESSAGE or email and show an adult.
- TALK IT OUT** TELL SOMEONE you trust.

ROCK SOLID Foundation | Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it Out, Seek Help | University of Victoria

Find out more at www.wibsprogram.ca or www.mediasmarts.ca