

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PARENTS

As parents you can:

- Be aware of the signs of distress in your child, e.g. unwillingness to attend school, a pattern of illness, missing equipment, requests for extra money, damaged equipment or clothing
- Take an active interest in your child's social life and acquaintances
- Assist your child to discuss any incidence of bullying with a teacher. If possible, allow your child to report and deal with the situation. Your child can gain respect and confidence through taking the initiative and dealing with the problem without direct parental involvement
- If your child is being bullied, discourage any planned retaliation, either physical or verbal, by discussing positive strategies they can use
- Be positive about your child's qualities and encourage your child to be tolerant and caring
- Be willing to attend interviews if your child is involved in an incident of bullying, and work cooperatively with the school
- Be willing to inform the school of any cases of suspected bullying even if your child is not directly involved or affected
- Do not deal directly with the other children or their parents but work through and with the school
- Discuss the school's expectations about behaviour and how best to deal with bullying

THE SHARED CONCERN APPROACH

We use the 'Shared Concern Approach' to deal with incidents of bullying. Briefly this approach consists of the following:

1. Individual meetings are held, with each of the students involved in the bullying situation, e.g. the student or students bullying, the person being bullied and any bystanders who may have seen what was happening.
2. Each student is asked about the problem and to suggest ways in which he or she personally could help to improve the situation.
3. The person being bullied is also given the opportunity to discuss what happened and encouraged to think of ways to improve the situation.
4. Follow-up meetings, discussions and planning give students the opportunity to change and improve their attitudes and behaviour and to put these into practice in a supportive environment.

Bullying can be a complicated problem, which takes time and patience to resolve properly. Using this approach, we are committed to the safety and well being of all students.



SOUTH NEWMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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STATEMENT ON BULLYING

We aim to establish a community in which everybody feels valued, respected and safe, and where individual differences are appreciated, understood and accepted. Everybody has a right to enjoy their time at school.



This community does not tolerate bullying or harassment.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At South Newman Primary School, everyone has the right to feel safe and valued and every member of the school community has a responsibility to ensure that this happens.

Rights

- To feel safe
- To learn
- To be respected
- To be valued

Responsibilities

- To respect yourself
- To respect others
- To use common sense
- To support others
- To respect property

BULLYING IS:

- A repeated and unjustifiable behaviour;
- Intended to cause fear, distress and/or harm to another;
- May be physical, verbal or indirect/relational;
- Conducted by a more powerful individual or group;
- Against a less powerful individual who is unable to effectively resist.

TYPES OF BULLYING

	Direct	Indirect
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitting, slapping, punching • Kicking • Pushing, strangling • Spitting, biting • Pinching, scratching • Throwing things e.g. stones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting another person to harm someone
Non-Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean and hurtful name-calling • Hurtful teasing • Demanding money or possessions • Forcing another to do homework or commit offences such as stealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spreading nasty rumours • Trying to get other students to not like someone
Non-Verbal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatening and/or obscene gestures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberate exclusion from a group or activity • Removing and hiding and/or damaging others' belongings

WHAT CAN I DO?

If it happens to me:

- Tell the student who is bullying to stop. State quite clearly that the behaviour is unwelcome and offensive
- Ignore them and walk away
- Seek help. Talk about it to someone you trust
- Report it to a member of staff, a trustworthy friend or buddy. Feel confident that an incident can be solved
- Talk it over openly with your parents—they can help you make a decision
- Do NOT retaliate with physical or verbal abuse
- If you are experiencing bullying on the way to or from school, tell your parents and walk home with a friend.

If it happens to someone else:

- Tell the person to stop bullying
- Be a friend to the person being bullied
- Encourage the person being bullied to inform someone
- Seek help. You can decide to do something about it and help to protect others
- Talk it over with the teacher