

How will I know if my child is being bullied?

As a parent you may know that something is upsetting your child before us. If your child is unusually quiet or doesn't want to come to school or says he or she feels sick – it might be that your child is just having an unsettled time but it might be that your child is being bullied.

How do I help my child?

This is really hard but try to stay calm when you are with your child. Try not to ask too many questions because you always want your child to tell you everything. Simply ask:-

“You don't seem yourself lately, is there anything worrying you?”

If your child does not want to talk at that moment don't “push” just keep an eye on your child and reassure him/her that you are always there to listen; to help and that you love him/her.

Continue to watch your child and contact Mrs Grundy at school. Even if your child has not given any more information other than you have noticed a change in behaviour, it is still best to let school know and they can then also watch your child in school.

If your child tells you that another child is bullying him/her, try to stay calm and see if you can gently encourage him/her to tell you who the child is and what he or she has been doing. Write it down to help you remember. Reassure your child, hug him/her and tell him/her that

- you love him/her
- you will help
- you will ask the school to help. Contact Mrs Grundy.

It might be that your child is afraid and does not want the child who is bullying to know that he/she has told you and school. Try to reassure your child that school will not do anything without your child knowing. School will work with your child.

What will school do?

Mrs Grundy or Mrs Smith will make an appointment time for you to come in and speak to her.

Mrs Grundy or Mrs Smith will make notes about what you have told her.

Mrs Grundy or Mrs Smith will give you three or four more appointment times so that together we can update each other about how your child is. If you require more meetings, they will be arranged.

Actions

Mrs Grundy/Mrs Smith will meet your child and encourage him/her to tell everything about what has been happening. Reassurance and praise will be given to your child. **Together** a plan of action will be made depending how your child is. There are many strategies that school can implement but it depends on what has been happening, where and when – before we can use the appropriate strategy.

There will be consequences for the child who has been bullying.

What do I do if I think my child is bullying other children or another child?

We all like to think that our children are perfect but they are not. No one is because we are all human! If you think that your child is bullying another child, contact Mrs Grundy or Mrs Smith and an appointment will be made for you to come to a meeting, at which you can explain your concerns and why. Together we will then make a plan of action to stop the bullying immediately and to then help your child. We have to remember that all children at primary school are very young and need our guidance, protection and love no matter what. If you tell school you are helping your child and the behaviour can be turned around. Parents of children who are being bullied are usually very forgiving if the child is truly sorry and his/her parents are supportive.

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

In the light of current legislation, we fully acknowledge our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We recognise and uphold the statutory duties regarding Child Protection.

Through our day to day contact with pupils and direct work with families, we have a crucial role to play in identifying indicators of possible abuse or neglect and referring them to the appropriate agency.

We acknowledge all children can be subject to abuse regardless of age, culture, race social background, gender or ability. All children have a right to grow up safe from harm.

This policy sets out how St Leo's and Southmead governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.

In line with Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2006, the definition of Safeguarding for this policy document is as follows:-

- Preventing children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare, which refers directly to activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering significant harm.
