

# Dormansland Primary School



## Happiness and Friendship

*Information booklet  
for parents and carers*



## Aims of this booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to provide parents and carers with:

- Information on how we support our children in school to be good friends, to be responsible for their actions and to understand their own feelings and those of others around them.
- Information on how we enable children to deal with the ups and downs of friendship.
- Information on how we teach children about the differences between friendship 'fallings out' and bullying, and what to do if they think they are being bullied.
- Information on how we deal with incidents of bullying in school, if they occur.



## What do we need, post-lockdown?

COVID-19 has made us all feel a little bit nervous about being back in school. We have missed out on some things during lockdown, such as seeing our friends and teachers, learning in our classrooms and playing in the playground. We need time to get used to doing these things again.

## How do we teach children about Happiness?

Happiness is the core value that we place at the heart of everything we do at Dormansland. It is what makes our school sparkle.

At Dormansland, we have a team of Behaviour Ambassadors, who help us to find friends. Our Ambassadors wear badges so that they can be easily recognised. Their duties include:

- To look out for lonely people
- To be an extra pair of eyes and ears
- To be happy! Smile!
- To be kind and helpful
- To suggest games and come up with ideas to play co-operatively
- To respect others
- To set the best example
- To be active
- To be encouraging
- To help resolve friendship issues, using Restorative Justice techniques, for which they receive training each year.

The team wear their badges with pride and take their responsibilities extremely seriously. However, they know that, if all else fails .... they must tell an adult!



*'Pupils feel extremely safe and well cared for. Pupils said that they can talk to many different staff and the school dog, Bourbon. They value the many ways that they can talk about any worries that they may have and how they will always be listened to.'*

*'Pupils behave exceptionally well and have very positive attitudes to learning. They are polite and respectful towards each other and staff. Pupils say that there is no bullying. They feel that if it did happen, it would be dealt with swiftly and resolved well.'*

# 99%

*...of our parents tell us that their child feels happy at school.*

# 99%

*...of our parents tell us that their child feels safe in our school.*

# 96%

*...of our parents agree that our school makes sure the children are well behaved.*

# 99%

*...of our parents agree that our school deals effectively with incidents of bullying.*

## Our Behaviour Ambassadors

We are here to make you feel better about things that are worrying you, and also to make you feel happy!

We are very good at helping people to solve problems. Some of us know how it feels to be anxious or sad and so we understand if this is how you're feeling and want to help you.

We don't want anyone to go home feeling worried. We want them to go home with a giggle!

All of our Behaviour Ambassadors carry a tiny Worry Muncher with them, for children to post their worries in their mouths. We also have some larger monsters in the library, and you can post your worry in there. These are checked every single day by someone in our Behaviour Ambassador team. Don't forget to put your name on your worry before giving it to the monster to eat, so that we can come and find you and chat to you about what's on your mind. If your worry is too big for us to help you with by ourselves, we will find a trusted grown up who can help us to help you feel better.

## Why not join our Worry Munchers Club?

Our Behaviour Ambassadors know that it's not always easy to talk to people about our troubles or worries. We recognise that, although we have so many different ways of supporting you with your concerns in our school, you might just want to have a chat with another child who wants to listen.

That's where our Worry Munchers Club comes in!

Every Wednesday lunchtime, there will be two or three Behaviour Ambassadors available in the nurture room for you to come and talk to. We will have colouring activities and music playing, and we can chat to you while we colour or draw together.

### Our Golden Thread

We don't have rules at Dormansland because we know how to behave.

We know that we have choices and that our choices will affect us and sometimes other people.

So we have one single Golden Thread:

**THINK!**



### We are a THINK School!

**T** – is it true?

**H** – is it helpful?

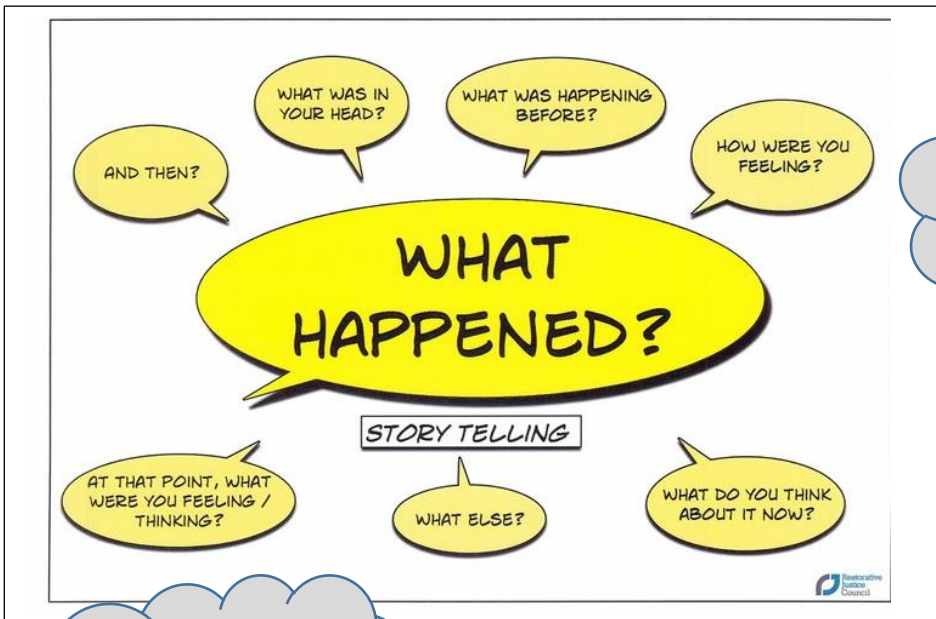
**I** – is it inspiring?

**N** – is it necessary?

**K** – is it kind?



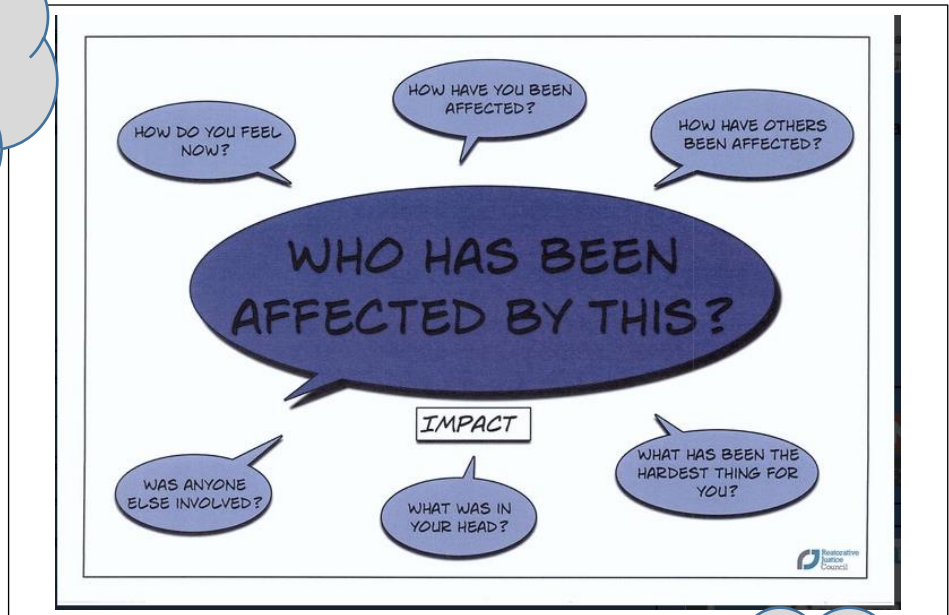
# The Principles of Restorative Justice and how we use them



We never ask a child WHY something happened – this can be really hard to answer!



It is so important to let the child reflect on the FEELINGS of all involved.



The resolution of the problem and a chance to put things right is fundamental.





## What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone keeps doing or saying things to have power over another person. It is any aggressive or insulting behaviour by an individual or group, often repeated over a period of time, that intentionally hurts or harms.

Bullying is and different from teasing or falling out with our friends because:

- it is persistent;
- there is a deliberate intention to hurt or humiliate;
- there is a power imbalance that makes it hard for the victim to defend themselves.

Sometimes other things happen which make us upset, but unless they fit into one or more of the groups above, it is probably not bullying. Falling out with your friend is not bullying, because friends usually make up again pretty quickly and friends shouldn't be trying to hurt each other on purpose.

Bullying might happen in a number of different ways:

- **Emotional:** hurting people's feelings; leaving people out
- **Physical:** punching, kicking, spitting, hitting, pushing
- **Verbal:** being teased, name-calling
- **Cyber:** saying or sending unkind things by text, email, on social media or any other way online
- **Racist:** calling someone names because of the colour of their skin

Everyone  
has the right  
to be who  
they are



We will  
ALWAYS  
treat bullying  
seriously

## How do we teach children about bullying?

At Dormansland, we make sure that we revisit the definition of bullying regularly, to ensure that all children understand the difference between bullying and friendship issues. We do this formally, through structured lessons that invite the children to think and reflect on their own behaviours and those of other children, and informally, through conversations we have every day with children in the playground and around the school, following the principles of Restorative Justice. Assemblies and Circle Time sessions also play a key role in the children's developing understanding of what bullying is and what to do if they think one of their friends might be being bullied.



## How do we deal with bullying in school?

Dormansland School has clear systems for reporting any cases of potential bullying for the whole school community, including children, parents and staff members. The systems are intended to make it safe for the victim to feel they can say something.



## What we tell the children to try if they are feeling uncomfortable by the actions of another person:

### DO:

- Ask them to STOP if you can. Remember to use 'Stop! I don't like it,' in a clear voice.
- Use eye contact and tell them to go away
- Ignore them
- Walk away
- Come inside for 'Time to Talk'
- Find Mrs Lochhead, Mrs Higginson or Mrs Gault on the playground and speak to them
- Tell a Behaviour Ambassador and ask them if they can help
- Talk to a responsible and trusted friend
- **TELL SOMEONE YOU TRUST**

### DON'T:

- Do what they say
- Get angry or look upset
- Hit them or attack them in any way
- Think it's your fault
- Hide your feelings from people you trust



## What if you're worried that someone else is being bullied?

- Tell an adult or a Behaviour Ambassador straight away
- Don't try to get involved
- Don't stay silent or the bullying might keep on happening



## Our School Vision

*When they leave us, children will be confident, resilient learners, with a positive self-image, who are ready for the challenges, opportunities and social responsibilities of a continually changing world.*

### What we value:

#### Happiness

Our primary focus on children's emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, moral and social conscience, and resilience

#### Security

Our commitment to keeping all children safe and to recognising that all children have vulnerabilities that require our attention

#### Inclusion

Every child matters and every child shapes our curriculum at any given time

#### Family

Our recognition that home plays a vital role in the children's education and our ability to work successfully in partnership

#### Innovation

Our enthusiasm for taking risks, thinking creatively and using critical judgement to find solutions

#### Learning

Our determination to make the learning adventure that we provide for every child who comes to Dormansland memorable, meaningful and magical



---

*This booklet is intended to provide a summary of our Anti-Bullying Policy, which can be read, in full, on our school website:*

[www.dormansland.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.dormansland.surrey.sch.uk)

*It has been created by the school's Head Teacher and her Behaviour Ambassadors, in line with the Department for Education's 'Respectful School Communities: Self-Review and Signposting Tool'*

*It was launched for our school community during Children's Mental Health Week 2019 and reviewed by the Behaviour Ambassadors in November 2021 as part of our school's focus on anti-bullying, which we now refer to as our 'Positive Culture'.*

*If you have any questions, please contact the school on:*

[head@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk)

