



Bullying Policy

Statement of Intent

The Oak Montessori is committed to providing an environment for children that is safe, welcoming and free from bullying. Bullying of any form is unacceptable in our Nursery School whether the offender is a child or an adult. The victim is never responsible for being the target of bullying.

Everyone involved at The Oak Montessori, staff, children and parent/carers, will be made aware of our stance towards bullying. Such behaviour will not be tolerated or excused under any circumstances.

What is bullying?

The Oak Montessori defines bullying as the repeated harassment of others through emotional, physical, verbal or psychological abuse. Examples of such behaviour are as follows:

Emotional

Being deliberately unkind, shunning or excluding another person from a group or tormenting them. For example, forcing another person to be 'left out' of a game or activity, or making fun of another person.

Physical

Pushing, scratching, spitting, kicking, hitting, biting, taking or damaging belongings, tripping up, punching or using any other sort of violence against another person.

Verbal

Name-calling, put-downs, ridiculing or using words to attack, threaten or insult. For example, spreading rumours or making fun of another person's appearance.

Psychological

Behaviour likely to instil a sense of fear or anxiety in another person.

Preventing Bullying Behaviour

Every staff member at The Oak Montessori will make every effort to create a tolerant and caring environment at our nursery school, where bullying behaviour is not acceptable. Staff will discuss the issues surrounding bullying openly, including why bullying behaviour will not be tolerated and what the consequences of bullying behaviour will be.



Dealing with Bullying Behaviour

Despite all efforts to prevent it, bullying behaviour may occur on occasion. In the event of such incidents, the following principles will govern The Oak Montessori response:

- All incidents of bullying will be addressed thoroughly and sensitively.
- Children will be encouraged to immediately report any incident of bullying that they witness.
- They will be reassured that what they say will be taken seriously and handled carefully.
- Staff have a duty to inform the Classroom Leader if they witness an incident of bullying involving children or adults at the nursery school.
- If a child or a member of staff tells someone that they are being bullied, they will be given the time to explain what has happened and reassured that they were right to tell.
- The individual who has been the victim of bullying will be helped and supported by the staff team. They will be kept under close supervision and staff will check on their welfare regularly.
- We explain to the child who is doing the bullying why her/his behaviour is not acceptable. In most cases, bullying behaviour can be addressed according to the strategies set out in the Behaviour Management policy. The bully will be encouraged to discuss their behaviour and think through the consequences of their actions. Where appropriate, they will be encouraged to talk through the incident with the other person concerned.
- Where bullying behaviour persists, more serious actions may have to be taken, as laid out in the Suspensions and Exclusions policy.
- A member of staff will inform the parents/carers of all the children involved in a bullying incident at the earliest possible opportunity. If appropriate, staff will facilitate a meeting between the relevant parents/carers. At all times, staff will handle such incidents with care and sensitivity.
- All incidents of bullying will be reported to the Supervisor and will be recorded in the Incident Record Book. In the light of reported incidents, the Classroom Managers and other relevant staff, will review The Oak Montessori's procedures in respect of bullying.

Policy Written in June 2019
Natasha Rawdon-Rego

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