**Stobhill Primary School**

**Anti Bullying Statement**

**draft 1 August 2017**

Stobhill Primary School follows Midlothian guidelines ‘Approaches to Anti Bullying for Children and Young People’. It states that:

‘Any form of bullying is unacceptable, including prejudice- based bullying and cyber- bullying’.

At Stobhill Primary we believe that all members of our community have the right to feel safe and secure. Our school values of respect, honesty, fairness, learning, our environment and our school rules to show respect at all times, to listen, to follow instructions first time of asking and to keep hands, feet and objects to yourself work towards building and maintaining an environment of mutual respect which fosters positive relationships based on trust, with each individual taking responsibility for their own behaviour and choices.

### What is bullying?

It is not easy to give an exact definition of bullying as it can take many forms.

Bullying usually occurs when an individual or group uses strength or power to hurt, either physically or emotionally, by intimating or demeaning others. It is usually persistent and is often covert and is a conscious attempt to hurt, threaten or frighten someone.

A National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland’s Children and Young People (Scottish Government 2010) states that bullying can be understood as behaviour which leaves people feeling helpless, frightened, anxious, depressed or humiliated.

### Bullying behaviour can be:-

* Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
* Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
* Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
* Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
* Homophobic – focussing on the issue of sexuality
* Verbal – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, ignoring
* Cyber – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, threatening by using internet or mobile phone

Midlothian Council and Stobhill Primary School expects that all staff, parents and carers will work together to prevent and reduce bullying and prejudice amongst pupils through:-

* Developing positive relationships amongst children, young people and adults which are mutually respectful, responsible and trusting
* Building capacity, resilience and skills in children and young people, and parents and carers to prevent and deal with bullying
* Preventing bullying of children and young people through a range of strategies and approaches
* Supporting children, young people and their parents and carers who are affected by bullying

All staff are trained in our Behaviour Management Policy and incidents will be dealt with promptly, consistently and effectively following school procedures. We are a LISTENING and TELLING school. This means that we encourage our pupils to tell a member of staff, if they know that unacceptable or bullying behaviour is happening in our school and they will be listened to with an open mind.

**Recording and Monitoring**

Recording and monitoring of instances of bullying are essential to ensure that appropriate responses and follow-up actions are taken and recurring patterns or further school action can be identified. At Stobhill Primary we have appropriate systems and procedures for recording bullying incidents, including the use of Seemis Incident Manager. The Head Teacher , Mrs Maggie Sikes, is the Anti – bullying coordinator responsible for the investigating, recording and monitoring of bullying incidents and for the coordination of the policy.

**Staff Responsibilities**

* Promote, build and nurture positive attitudes, behaviours and relationships based on trust and listening.
* Develop class charter linked to school values, school rules and class rules.
* Build capacity, resilience and skills of pupils to deal with a range of behaviours including bullying through the curriculum and related activities
* Promote the understanding of the United Nations Rights of the Child alongside the principles of GIRFEC
* Support pupil in their growing understanding of the term bullying and its effects and consequences and to understand the school’s anti-bullying approaches
* Help children and young people, parents and carers understand the difference between bullying and other behaviours
* Deal promptly and effectively with all allegations of bullying
* Be fully aware of policy and related procedures and record all behaviour incidents / concerns either through Behaviour Policy ( amber / red) or through chronology sheet.
* Ensure that if they are approached as a trusted person they allow open and full communication with the child and ALWAYS pass on the report to the anti-bullying coordinator.
* Communicate with senior staff member or the anti bullying coordinator to discuss how to communicate with the parents/ carers of the child experiencing the bullying at the earliest possible time to explain the situation and actions they will take to protect the child and ensure a safe environment.
* Communicate with senior staff member or the anti bullying coordinator to discuss how to communicate with parents/ carers at the earliest possible time to inform them of any investigation of bullying involving their child and to explain the situation and actions they will take to stop the bullying behaviour .
* Complete Bullying Log immediately whenever a child or parents raises a concern about bullying.
* Make sure all instances are recorded and monitored

Staff will

* Nurture relationships
* Develop class charter to include all school values, school rules and class rules
* Teach rights of the child linking to 4 capacities
* Record all behaviour concerns either through Behaviour Policy ( amber / red) or through incident sheet or Bullying Log
* Pass information of incidents to HT

**Pupil Responsibilities**

* Build positive attitudes, behaviours and relationships based on trust
* Understand the difference between bullying and other behaviours
* Follow the school rules, values and behaviour policy to ensure they make good choices.
* Support the school’s anti-bullying approaches
* Tell a trusted person if they have any worries about bullying
* Keep themselves and others safe with support from trusted adults
* Engaging in safe, responsible use of mobile technology
* Have positive relationships and attitudes and challenge bullying behaviour if they feel able to do so

Pupils will be taught the following procedure:-

* Children should initially tell the other person to stop the behaviour, as they don’t like it (Cool in School strategy)
* If the behaviour continues, they should then say they will report the behaviour to an adult
* If the behaviour is repeated on another occasion, the pupil will go to an adult for help.
* A meeting with a trusted adult involving both parties involved will take place in order to discuss the problem and find solutions and agree on sanctions.
* Reported incidents will be investigated and recorded. If an incident is found to be bullying then a ‘Bullying Concern’ form will be completed and placed in relevant folders and it will recorded on the Seemis system.
* Communication with school staff and parents / carers will take place.

**Parents and Carers Responsibilities**

* Build positive attitudes, behaviours and relationships based on trust with their child and with Stobhill Primary School so that bullying behaviour can be reported and appropriate action can be taken.
* Support their child to follow the school rules, values, behaviour policy and anti-bullying approaches and give a clear message to their child that bullying is unacceptable.
* Encourage safe and responsible use of mobile technology and internet
* Communicate concerns to a relevant member of school staff in the first instance, and work in partnership with them to resolve these concerns.

**Stobhill Primary School is committed to working in partnership with all staff, parents and carers and pupils to make Stobhill Primary School a safe and welcoming place to learn.**