



Behaviour Management



Guidance for Parents

BULLYING VS TEASING/RUDE/MEAN MOMENTS or CONFLICT

Occasionally, the word 'bullying' can be used incorrectly by children and adults. Bullying can differ from other incidents and friendship 'fall-outs' and it is important that the word is used correctly.

And while rudeness, mean behaviour and conflict require correction, they are different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention.

We are working on the premise of

'bullying is mean but being mean doesn't mean bullying'.

It is vital that the children have the emotional literacy and are equipped with the appropriate vocabulary to describe what has happened to them when an incident occurs in school.

But if it's not bullying - what is it?

It is also very important that we identify the behaviours that cause emotional or physical hurt, name them and have clear sanctions in place for each behaviour.

Vocabulary around these incidents is vital - we must all be using it.

The vocabulary we are using is:

Intentional and unintentional

Teasing - this could also be referred to as 'banter'. When someone says something in a jokey way. If you didn't find it funny, tell an adult. It's only funny if everyone finds it funny.

Rude - When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, it's rude. For example, pushing in the line, snatching something off someone.

Mean - when someone does or says something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's mean.

Conflict - is a disagreement, argument or fight where both sides can express their views and they are equals in the situation and may even be friends - one person is not more to blame than the other. It can happen more than once and still be classed as conflict. A solution can usually be found.

Bullying - is repeated negative behaviour by someone who is asserting power and control over another person. It is done with the intention to hurt, harm or humiliate and the person targeted is unable to make it stop.

Each classroom has an A3 poster of the flow chart that the children and staff will use when an incident has been reported. By following the chart, the behaviour will be named and the sanction will be discussed with the children involved.

Please note: if your child has been hurt or upset by someone, they will not necessarily see the other child/ren sanctioned, but they can be assured that it will be followed through by school staff.

It is vital for all of the children to know how issues will be dealt with and that they are dealt with in a consistent manner. It is also important to stress that the children who are being unkind and demonstrating undesirable behaviours learn that it's not ok.

These sanctions are linked to our Behaviour Matrix and are kept in class and referred to by the staff when speaking with the children about incidents.

What happens when...

When someone says something in a jokey way that's **TEASING!**

Tell an adult if you didn't find it funny. The person who was teasing you will be spoken to about it only being a joke if everyone is finding it funny.

When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE!**

Tell an adult if someone was rude to you. The person who was rude to you will be spoken to about how their words were rude and hurtful and what they could do or say differently next time.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN!**

Tell an adult if someone was mean to you. The person who was mean to you may miss their playtime and write you a letter to apologise.

When you have an argument with your friend and you both say unkind things, that's **CONFLICT!**

Tell an adult if you have had an argument with someone. You will both be spoken to about what you have done, what should happen next and what you could do or say differently next time.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it even when the targeted person tells them to stop - that's **BULLYING!**

Tell an adult what has been happening. The person or people who have been bullying you may be excluded for a period of time and their parents will be called in for a meeting.