

Bullying is a wilful, conscious desire to persistently and systematically hurt, threaten or frighten someone else. Rough play or occasional fights can be mistaken for bullying and so it is important for everyone to understand what is meant by the term.

Bullying can be defined as repeatedly:

- hurting others on purpose
- making others do things they do not want to do
- hurting the feelings of others

Bullying can be:

- Physical – hitting, kicking, taking belongings
- Verbal – name calling, insulting, making offensive or racist remarks
- Indirect – spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social group

Bullying is not tolerated. If a report of bullying should occur, or if a parent, or child, expressed concerns to the headteacher or another member of staff, the following procedures would be applied:

1. All reports or concerns would be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.
2. The school would establish a monitoring programme to observe and assess the situation and all relevant staff would be informed.
3. If anti-social behaviour, or bullying was observed, the agreed Behaviour Management procedures would be applied immediately. Parents would be consulted and informed of the action taken.
4. In very extreme cases, if an incident of bullying could not be resolved by applying the Behaviour Management procedures, this would then be referred to the school governors and the West Sussex guidelines, for exclusion of the child to be considered.