

Assembly

Anti Bullying Week - Monday 12th November 2018 - Friday 16th November 2018

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2018 is: 'Choose Respect'

Bullying is a sad reality that many children are having to deal with on a daily basis. Every Pupil should feel safe and know what to do if they are being troubled by fellow pupils.

Similarly, we believe those that are bullying must also be given appropriate support to ensure bullying is tackled at every level.

Anti-Bullying Week is an initiative organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, it's focus is on making children understand what bullying is, the hurt it causes and how to report it.

It is our duty to ensure the children in our care know and understand the harms of bullying both generally and through an Islamic perspective....ie what the Qur'an and hadith have to say about bullying and those being bullied.

Bullying can be related to race, religion, culture, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, disability, age, socio-economic background or because a pupil is adopted or has caring responsibilities.

Respect in Islam

As mentioned, the theme of Anti-Bullying week this year is 'Respect'. Respect encompasses all behaviour and characteristics that need to be displayed to one another.

Respect is due regard for the feelings, wishes or rights of others. It is also described as admiration for someone or something due to their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

A verse of the Holy Quran says:

Verily, Allah is with those who are righteous and those who do good. (16:129)

This verse elaborates on the fact that Allah swt will be with those that are good to those around them and observe good attributes in general.

It is reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

"Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to people."

(Sahih al-Bukhari)

Bullying and Respect

We all like to be treated nicely. A kind word, an appreciative nod and most of all, the most comforting sign ever, a smile.

But when a person is bullied they are made to feel sad, hurt and lonely.

Bullying is not restricted to any single place, age or gender. Bullying takes place in schools, work places and even within families....ie domestic violence

Respect is the foundation to any person, group or society succeeding. It is up to every individual to make the difference; to become role-models leading the way, showing young ones how they should treat every person positively, regardless of their age, gender and background.

You can make the difference... Show Respect!

Different types of bullying

Physical Bullying

Hitting, Punching, Kicking, Pushing, fighting,

Verbal Bullying

- Teasing
- Name-calling
- Taunting
- Racist remarks
- Spreading gossip/malicious rumours.

Cyber Bullying

- Harassing emails
- Pictures to hurt or harm someone else
- Sending mean text messages.
- Posting statements online that are unkind or not true.
- Sending or posting pictures that are not yours to share.
- Agreeing with someone who posts something hurtful.

Emotional Bullying

It is designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation.

- Lying and spreading rumours,
- Menacing or sneering looks,
- Mimicking unkindly,
- Encouraging others to socially exclude someone
- Ties in with all of the other types of bullying

Criminal law

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour - or communications - could be a criminal offence,

As an example, under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is an offence for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat, or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender.

Bullies

Generally have low self-esteem although they often appear confident. When young they are quite popular and will draw a crowd of other pupils to follow them around. They like to get their own way and will respond to stressful situations by hitting out. They will usually be:

Energetic and hyperactive.

Aggressive towards other pupils and adults.

Prone to break the rules and indulge in anti-social behaviour.

Positive about their own behaviour and displaying no shame or guilt, and little sympathy for their victims.

Able to communicate well and have an answer for everything.

Adept at getting themselves "off the hook" and out of difficult situations. Always have a reason about why she did what she did...generally not her fault...

We expect our pupils to:

Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity.

Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so.

Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances.

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should:

Not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets.

Not delete anything sent to them on social media if it comes across as mean or bullying.