



Anti-Bullying Policy and Plan - 2024-2025

Bedford Kindergarten

Objective: To ensure that Bedford Kindergarten is a safe, caring, and inclusive environment where all children feel respected, valued, and free from bullying behaviours. Our goal is to help young children understand the importance of kindness, empathy, and positive relationships.

Policy Statement: Bedford Kindergarten is committed to providing a nurturing atmosphere where bullying is not tolerated. We believe in proactively educating children about respect and empathy, helping them understand the impact of their actions on others. Through supportive guidance, we aim to prevent and address bullying effectively.

What is Bullying? For young children aged 3 to 5, bullying is any repetitive behaviour that is intended to hurt, frighten, or upset another child. This can include:

- **Physical Bullying:** Hitting, kicking, pushing, or any form of hurting someone physically.
- **Verbal Bullying:** Name-calling, teasing, or saying mean things to another child.
- **Exclusion:** Intentionally leaving someone out of play or not allowing others to join activities.

Guiding Principles:

1. **Create a Caring Environment:** We encourage children to care for each other, share, and use kind words to foster a friendly community.
2. **Model Positive Behaviour:** Teachers demonstrate kindness, patience, and empathy in their actions, so children can learn through example.
3. **Encourage Open Communication:** Children are encouraged to speak up if they feel hurt or if they see others being treated unkindly. We make sure children feel safe talking to their teachers.

OUR VISION –

Nurture the Tiny Minds; Cherish the Future.

Our vision is to create a nurturing environment where young minds are cherished, cultivated, and prepared for a promising future. We believe in the potential of every child and are committed to providing the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

4. **Teach Empathy:** Through stories, discussions, and role-playing, children learn to recognize how others feel and the importance of treating everyone with respect.

Plan for Addressing Bullying Behaviour:

1. Prevention Strategies:

- **Storytelling and Role-Playing:** Teachers use books and stories about kindness and friendship to help children understand the importance of being considerate and how to handle different social situations.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** We praise children when they demonstrate kindness, sharing, or cooperative play. Positive behaviours are celebrated to reinforce the value of caring for one another.
- **Circle Time Discussions:** Regular discussions are held during circle time to talk about feelings, friendships, and appropriate ways to solve conflicts.

2. Intervention Strategies:

- **Immediate Response:** When bullying behaviour is observed, teachers will intervene calmly and firmly, stopping the behaviour and separating the children if needed. The teacher will ensure that everyone is safe.
- **Guided Discussion:** The child who engaged in bullying behaviour will be guided to understand how their actions made the other child feel. The teacher will encourage them to think about a better choice they could make next time.
- **Support for the Victim:** The child who experienced the bullying will receive comfort, support, and reassurance. They will be encouraged to express their feelings in a safe space.
- **Role-Playing Alternatives:** Children involved will participate in a guided role-play to learn alternative ways to behave in similar situations. This will help them practice positive social skills.

OUR VISION –

Nurture the Tiny Minds; Cherish the Future.

Our vision is to create a nurturing environment where young minds are cherished, cultivated, and prepared for a promising future. We believe in the potential of every child and are committed to providing the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

3. Parental Involvement:

- **Communication with Parents:** If bullying behaviour persists, parents of all children involved will be notified. We believe in a collaborative approach, working with parents to ensure that children understand the importance of positive behaviour at school and at home.
- **Consistent Follow-Up:** Teachers will follow up with parents regularly to ensure progress is being made. Any positive changes will be celebrated, while ongoing issues will be addressed together.

4. Ongoing Support and Monitoring:

- **Monitoring Behaviours:** Teachers will closely monitor children who have displayed bullying behaviour to ensure that they are learning and applying positive interaction skills.
- **Encouraging Friendships:** Teachers will support children in building new friendships through guided group activities, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued.

Building a Culture of Respect and Care:

- **Buddy System:** Pairing children up as “buddies” for activities helps build friendships and encourages children to take care of each other.
- **Emotion Cards:** We use cards with different facial expressions to help children recognize emotions, understand others' feelings, and develop empathy.
- **Kindness Tree:** A visual display where children can add “kindness leaves” when they perform an act of kindness. This helps create a culture where kindness is celebrated, and everyone feels valued.

Conclusion: At Bedford Kindergarten, we aim to teach children from an early age that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and kindness. Through supportive guidance, positive modelling, and collaboration with parents, we strive to create a caring environment where bullying is not tolerated, and every child feels safe, loved, and ready to grow.

OUR VISION –

Nurture the Tiny Minds; Cherish the Future.

Our vision is to create a nurturing environment where young minds are cherished, cultivated, and prepared for a promising future. We believe in the potential of every child and are committed to providing the support and opportunities they need to thrive.