

Anti-Bullying policy

Every child is entitled to enjoy Scouting in a safe and secure environment, free from distraction. We have a preventative and proactive approach to behaviour difficulties through implementing Scout Association policies which promote good behaviour.

Our goal is to reinforce the positive qualities of friendship, good manners, tolerance of diversity along with racial and sexual equality within a caring community. This means we must provide young people with opportunities to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Violence and the abuse of power will not be tolerated.

Abuse comes in many forms. It can be actual physical assault. It can be verbal abuse. It can be the "silent treatment". It is important to remember that the degree of the offence does not necessarily mirror the impact of the bullying. For example, the silent treatment can be equally as damaging as physical or verbal abuse. Bullying in all its forms is a major cause of distress and damaging to individuals and the Group.

One of Scouting's aims is to create a safer community. We must demonstrate our commitment by providing clear examples to children that bullying and the abuse of power are not acceptable.

Bullying is one aspect of behaviour which causes hurt and anxiety. It causes concern to parents and affects Scouting's ethos.

Should your child say that he/she is experiencing bullying in any form, please do not hesitate to contact any Section Leader, Committee Member, or myself. Any allegations will be treated in the strictest confidence and investigated fully.

Further information can be found at www.bullyonline.org/

Dave Calverley

Group Scout Leader

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