

Anti-Bullying Policy

The **Scout Association** has an **Anti- Bullying Policy** that states:

“Children have the right to protection from all forms of violence (physical or mental). They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them.” *[The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19]*

The Scout Association is committed to this ethos and seeks to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the prevention of all forms of bullying among Members. To this end all Scouting activities should have in place rigorous anti-bullying strategies.

Definition

Bullying is where one person (or group) is deliberately and knowingly hurting another, mentally and / or physically, for fun or “just because they can”. Bullying is not usually a “one off” incident but happens on repeated occasions. The victim has their confidence so undermined that they allow this to continue and feel powerless to stop the torment.

Sadly, bullying happens in all walks of life for adults as well as children and can be motivated by any of a number of influences including (but not exclusive to:) racism, sexism, physical disability, or religious prejudices. At the 6th Dagenham Scout Group, we take a very dim view on any forms of bullying.

Bullying is not:

- ☘ A child ‘falling out’ with another and having a disagreement.
- ☘ A child bumping into another during an activity.
- ☘ Playing boisterously or loudly, or a ‘one off’ angry outburst.

Aims and Objectives:

These are to:

- ☘ Promote positive social behaviour and attitudes.
- ☘ Keep incidents of bullying to a minimum.
- ☘ Intervene effectively when bullying does happen.
- ☘ Help children feel confident enough to disclose any incidents of bullying, to a responsible adult.

Protocol

We are very sensitive to bullying and make it a priority to support children as soon as we find out about any issues. We work with the children to develop their self-esteem and resilience which, in turn, equips them with the skills to be tolerant of others. All members of the Scout Group will be encouraged to report incidents of bullying to the Section Leader and Group Scout Leader. Appropriate action will be taken:

‘Aggressor’ and ‘victim’ are listened to.

All parties, which may include parents, are brought in and given the opportunity to share their views of the incident. Usually when a child is found to be bullying another child, the ‘bully’ will be told to leave the group.