



BEACH LIFE ANTI-BULLYING POLICY 2024

STATEMENT OF INTENT

We want the children and young people to enjoy their time at Beach Life and for it to be a safe place for them to grow in their relationship with each other and God. As such it is necessary to have some basic guidelines for good practice, to best care for those youngsters entrusted to us. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in any Beach Life activity. If bullying does occur, incidents should be dealt with promptly and effectively. We believe every individual should be treated with dignity and respect and no one deserves to be bullied.

Bullying can take many forms but is the mistreatment of someone resulting in harm and distress to that person.

We use the STOP method to identify bullying Several Times on Purpose.

Some common forms of bullying can be:

Emotional; Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, graffiti, gestures, racial taunts.

Physical: Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.

Sexual: Unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.

Racial: Any of the above because of, or focusing on the issue of racial differences.

Homophobic: Any of the above because of, or focusing on the issue of sexual orientation.

Verbal: Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing including via e mails or text messaging.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY

All adults involved in Beach Life as well as children and young people should have an understanding of what bullying is.

All adults involved in Beach Life must know what the policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.

All children, young people and parents should know what the policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying happens. Our policy is displayed on the Beach Life website.

Children, young people and parents can be sure that they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated.

PREVENTION

Strategies can be adopted to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Writing a set of group rules/contact.
- Everyone signing a behaviour contract.
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters.
- Publicising Anti-Bullying Policy.

PROCEDURES

- Report bullying incident to a member of the Beach Life Team.
- Ensure that details are carefully checked before action is taken.
- In all cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by the leader of the activity.
- The parents of the bully and the bullied should be informed at an appropriate time.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and all bullying stopped quickly.
- An attempt will be made to help the bullies change their behaviour.

OUTCOMES

- The activity leader will issue a warning to the person concerned.
- An apology should be given by person who has bullied another.
- If possible, the people will be reconciled.
- After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
- Make it clear that a second warning may be issued if they bully the same or another person.
- After a third incident, the child or young person will be sent home
- After the incident/incidents have been investigated parents/carers should be informed of the action taken
- All incidents will be recorded by the activity leader and reported to the Beach Life leader.