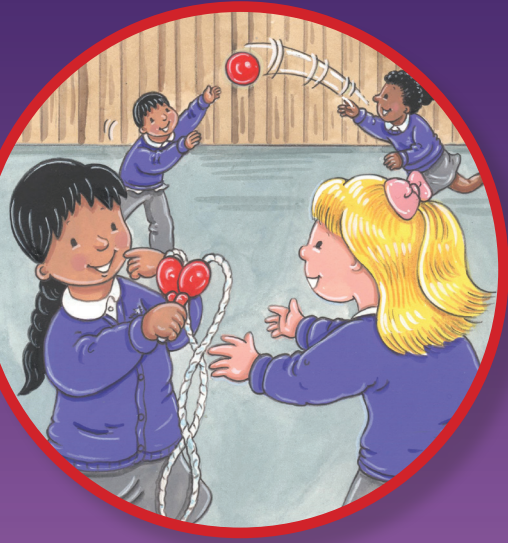




Building friendships at Oakfield

At Oakfield we all work together to make our pupils feel safe and happy. As part of our regular anti-bullying awareness days, we have asked our pupils for their views on what bullying is. They have also told us about other things that happen at school which may make them unhappy, and we have discussed ways of dealing with them.

To help you and your child recognise challenging behaviour, and deal with it, we have written this leaflet. Read it through with your child, and encourage them to talk about their feelings.



I am not being included in a game

Sometimes your child may find themselves left out of a game. This happens to everyone from time to time and is upsetting, but is not necessarily bullying. However, if your child experiences this frequently, they may be being bullied. Encourage your child to talk to you or an adult at the school if this is happening. Also, encourage positive behaviour by asking your child to look out for other children who may be being left out.

There is no room on the team for Sabi to play a ball game. Izzy sees that Sabi is looking a bit sad, so she asks her to join in her game.



I was told to go away

Sometimes children can be thoughtless in the way that they talk to each other. If another child frequently uses unkind words to your child, encourage them to tell you or an adult at the school. Also, talk to your child about the impact of words, and explain that unkind words can be as upsetting as being hurt physically. Talk to them about using appropriate words to other children.

Michael wanted to play with the bigger children in the playground. They told him to go away and he is feeling sad. He tells his teacher and she has a chat about it, and helps him find something else to do.

My friend is playing with someone else

Making friendships is an important part of school life. Sometimes close friends may want to do activities with other children, which may mean that your child cannot play with their friend. Encourage your child to make a group of friends so they do not rely on only one child for friendship. This is a normal part of friendship and does not mean your child is being bullied. If your child feels a bit lonely and is finding it hard to adjust, we always have adult-led activities at playtimes, so there is always someone to play with.

Jamal and Lewis are best friends but today Lewis is playing with other children. Jamal asks if Thomas would like to do some painting. Jamal is pleased to make a new friend.



Understanding bullies

Our pupils have told us that although bullies act in an unkind way, and say unkind things, they often hurt themselves as much as they hurt others. Any child can be unkind from time to time, as often they don't understand the impact they are having on another child. At Oakfield we work with all pupils involved to make sure that the behaviour stops, and to help resolve the situation. You can help support this by talking to your child about the impact of bullying so that they recognise when it is happening, and know what they should do.

Michael knows about what is kind and unkind behaviour. He knows that he can tell an adult if it happens to him or another child, and it will be OK.





What do I do if I think I am being bullied?

If your child feels that they are being bullied, encourage them to tell an adult. There will always be someone they can talk to. When they tell an adult, it will be OK and it will be resolved. Our pupils also look out for each other. If your child thinks another child is being bullied, they should tell an adult straight away.

Michael, Sabi and Jamal feel safe and happy at Oakfield. They know that their teachers and friends are there to look after them.

Working together at Oakfield

We all work together to make Oakfield a happy place for everyone. Our pupils make friends with new children, or those who are struggling to make friends by themselves. So, for example, if your child is feeling sad, they are encouraged to use the friendship bench so that other children can come and befriend them. We also have a worry box in class so that children can raise concerns easily. We encourage our pupils to act in kind ways by trying to make the right choices with behaviour. So, for example, by keeping their hands and feet to themselves, and talking to each other in a kind way.

Sabi is feeling a bit left out so she sits on the friendship bench. Lucy and Jack come and chat to her and she makes some new friends.



Oakfield Community Primary School
Oakfield Lane
Dartford
Kent
DA1 2SW

Tel: 01322 220831
Email: office@oakfield.kent.sch.uk
www.oakfield-dartford.co.uk

