

Making friends and keeping safe at Hatton School

Making friends



At Hatton School and Special Needs Centre we want all of our children to feel safe and to achieve. We encourage positive attitudes and discourage behaviour which can lead to bullying. We also recognise that other incidents may happen in school, which make children unhappy, but which are not bullying behaviour.

Learning to play nicely with others



Insulting someone and name calling



Bumps and scrapes




Hatton School
& Special Needs Centre

Please read through this leaflet with your child and talk about what they should do in each situation. If you have any questions or concerns raised by topics discussed in this leaflet, please speak to a member of staff, such as a class teacher or Learning Support Assistant.



Making friends

Making friendships is an important part of school life. Sometimes this can be hard for children who lack confidence or are not used to making friends. You can help your child connect with other children by practising some key social skills with them. Coach your child in how to make conversation by playing a role-play game with them. If your child is non-verbal then help them practise sharing toys or activities so they can feel comfortable joining in with other children at school. If your child feels a bit lonely and is finding it hard to adjust, we always have adults on duty at playtimes who can help them join in the games and find someone to play with. Also, encourage positive behaviour by asking your child to look out for other children who may be playing on their own or look lonely.

Aaliyah wants to make friends with Ben, so she offers him her favourite toy to play with. Ben smiles as he is pleased to make a new friend.

I was told to go away

Sometimes children can be thoughtless in the way that they talk and respond to each other. If another child frequently uses unkind words to your child, encourage them to tell you or an adult at the school. We have Learning Support Assistants and teachers on duty in the playground and they will respond to any concerns. 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 kind words to other children.

Jack is upset that when he tried to join in a game, he was told to go away. He tells an adult on the playground who reassures him that she will deal with it. She also arranges for Jack to be included in a fun playground game with other children. Jack is now happy again.



Learning to play nicely with others

It is important for children to enjoy playing with each other. We know that when children get stressed or over-excited they may not realise they are acting or playing roughly. Help your child to learn about gentle play by reinforcing this at home. A useful phrase is "Use kind hands and feet". Children can learn by being accountable for their behaviour. You can teach your child to make amends if they have hurt or upset another child by saying sorry or sharing a favourite toy, drawing a picture for them or playing their favourite game.

Jack was racing around the playground and bumped into Kyle, which upset Kyle. Jack was very sorry and drew a picture for Kyle to show how sorry he was. Kyle is smiling now he knows Jack is sorry and they are still friends.

Insulting someone and name calling

It is unfriendly to tease someone because they are different. Mean words can make a child feel as sad as being hurt on purpose. At Hatton we always try and use kind words.

Talk to your children about not using unkind words to other children. Reassure them that if someone says unkind words to them, they should talk to an adult at school who will deal with it.

Ben had upset Aaliyah by saying unkind things to her. An adult on duty spoke to Ben about this and he was very sorry. The adult has encouraged them to make friends and Aaliyah is so pleased this has been dealt with.





Bumps and scrapes

Hurting other children on purpose is not nice. Sometimes children hurt each other by accident. This is all part of growing up and does not mean they are being unkind to each other.

Make sure your child knows to tell an adult if they have an accident at school. Talk to your child about the importance of saying sorry if they have hurt someone. The adults at school are always there to help and will make sure that everyone is OK. The school staff are ready to help children on ways they can convey that they are sorry if they have accidentally hurt someone

If you bump into someone by accident, or hurt them, always remember to let them know you are sorry. That way the other person will know you have not hurt them deliberately and that it isn't bullying. Adults at school will help you if you are learning how to say sorry.

Jack was pushing Kyle on the trike and Jack pushed too hard, making Kyle fall over. Jack knew this was wrong and he showed that he was sorry. He helped Kyle get up and offered to push again but much more gently. Kyle was glad as he enjoys playing with Jack.

Working together at Hatton

We all work together to make Hatton a happy place for everyone. Our pupils are supported to develop play skills so they can play with their friends in class and on the playground. If your child is showing that they are feeling sad, tell their teacher and they will work with you to try to make things better. We encourage our pupils to act in kind ways by trying to make the right choices with behaviour.

The teacher is showing Aaliyah and Kyle a fun game that they can play together as they make friends.

If we all think about being kind to each other and helping anyone we know is upset, our school will be a happy, loving place for all of us.

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