

# Anti-Bullying

Supporting our children with restrictive behaviour and children who hurt each other.

The Loddon School provides care and education for children with very special needs usually associated with autism. This means they are likely to hurt themselves (SIB), be destructive or hurt other people. Staff are trained in and prepared for this through PROACT-SCIPr-UK, to minimise incidents and protect themselves and others.

Children may be aggressive towards each other. Staff must be aware of this problem and try all reasonable strategies to avoid injury to children. Staff should position themselves between a distressed child and other children if possible. Protective space pads may be used for passive protection (as a barrier). Triggers to aggressive behaviour include, for example, noise, change of plan in the timetable, transitions, wanting the activity of another child, not wanting other children in the setting or too much demand placed on the child.

In such situations staff should proactively plan to give the child time and space to reduce the likelihood of aggression to another child. It is important to plan the details of every activity to avoid known risks (especially where particular individuals are less compatible) and every staff member should be familiar with the Risk Assessment and Support Guidelines for the individuals they are working with.

If staff feel that a child is likely to display such aggression it is important to give the child time and space before a situation arises. For example, they may like to run around in the outside play areas, spend time in their bedroom or the entrance area or go to another playroom.

If a child injures another child, the children should be separated with the focus for overt attention being the child who has been hurt. In the action plan following the incident staff should review and plan to reduce such incidents potentially through additions to behaviour support guidelines.

If any child is injured, it is important to give the child maximum levels of care and attention as the child is likely to suffer emotional shock and will need reassurance. It may be that they will need time and space away from their peers, the provision of a distraction (a preferred or calming activity, for example). After such an incident it is important to record in the Incident and Accident Books, to seek advice from the nurse, duty manager or senior on-call staff who will arrange appropriate First Aid and may report to the G.P., parents and social workers (where involved) will be informed as soon as possible, in most cases by the house Teacher or CSM. A child-on-child incident form should be completed for all such incidents.

All staff should be aware that injuries to children are always serious, and all steps should be taken to protect all the children from such incidents.

The requirements of Keeping Children Safe and its content around child-on-child abuse must always be considered in the context of a child's behaviour, level of cognition and need. More information in relation to this can also be found in The Loddon School's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and Positive Behaviour Support policy.