

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School



## Anti-bullying Policy



## Anti-Bullying Policy



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## **1. POLICY STATEMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT:**

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we believe that all children have a right to learn and work in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. We promote good behaviour and relationships. In keeping with the school mission statement, and we aim to educate children to love all people and treat others as we would like to be treated. Bullying is therefore viewed by the school as being unacceptable.

The aim of this anti-bullying policy is to ensure that bullying is tackled effectively in our school. This policy is linked to our Pastoral Care and Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

**TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS  
BY  
LEARNING TOGETHER  
LOVING OURSELVES  
LOVING EACH OTHER  
LOVING ALL PEOPLE  
LOVING LIFE ITSELF  
AND  
CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR  
EXCELLENCE  
WORTHY OF OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS.**

Date Policy Approved: October 2020

Date for Review: October 2022

## 2. What do we mean by bullying?

*“Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally” (DfE 2017 ‘Preventing and Tackling Bullying’)*

Bullying can occur through several types of anti-social behaviour. Children can bully other children (this is often referred to as peer on peer abuse). All inappropriate behaviour between peers will be challenged by staff and a culture of safeguarding will be prominent in school to ensure that bullying is never normalised.

Bullying and peer on peer abuse is most likely to include but may not be limited to: -

a) Physical:

A child can be physically hit, punched, pinched, kicked, slapped, spat at, bitten, etc.

b) Verbal:

This can take the form of name calling, teasing, etc

c) Indirect:

E.g. spreading rumours (see also online bullying)

d) Online bullying:

This is on the increase and can involve pupils receiving threatening or disturbing messages from possibly anonymous callers. Online bullying can include bullying by text, email, messenger service, social media etc.

e) Exclusion:

A child can be bullied by being ignored or left out from discussions/activities.

f) Damage to property or theft:

Pupils may have their property damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used by the bully in order to force a pupil to hand over property to them.

g) Manipulative behaviour:

E.g. being made to steal or undertake a humiliating task.

h) Prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying:

An incident which is perceived to be prejudice-based or discriminatory by the victim or any other person. This type of bullying may be targeted towards somebody because they are from a different background, culture, race, colour or have a particular disability.

This can take the form of:

- verbal abuse, name calling, racist jokes, offensive mimicry
- inciting others to behave in a discriminatory way
- prejudice-based graffiti or other written insults
- refusing to co-operate in work or play with a particular individual

i) Sexual bullying:

This is characterised by:

- abusive name calling
- looks and comments about appearance, attractiveness, emerging puberty
- inappropriate and uninvited touching
- use of homophobic language
- looks and comments about sexual orientation or appearance

j) SEND:

This is bullying that deliberately takes advantage of or exploits special educational needs or disability. These pupils are often at greater risk of bullying.

People can be bullied for different reasons or no reason at all. Bullying can be related to:

- Race, religion or culture
- Special educational needs or disabilities
- Appearance or health conditions
- Perceived sexual orientation and homophobia
- Circumstances at home
- ANY perceived difference

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are inclusive. We support and acknowledge that all of our children are made in the image and likeness of God, and we celebrate their differences.

We will not tolerate bullying by any member of our community, be they pupil, member of staff or visitor.

### **3. How does St Mary's Catholic Primary School prevent bullying?**

- The DSLs and pastoral team in school have fortnightly meetings to address any pastoral or behaviour concerns.
- We share our anti bullying expectations with pupils, parents, carers, governors and staff on an on-going basis.
- We develop an ethos where every child feels safe and valued by reliable and responsible adults.
- We make clear our zero tolerance stance on bullying for everyone: adults and children alike.
- We promote and raise awareness of anti-bullying strategies through lessons, events and assemblies.

- We teach about online safety, cyber bullying and e-safety across the breadth of our curriculum.
- We regularly evaluate and update our approach to take account of developments in technology, for instance updating 'acceptable use' policies for computers.
- We have 'Anti Bullying Weeks' in school to promote anti bullying messages.
- We have 'black history month' to celebrate all our children's similarities and differences.
- Staff are fully trained and briefed in safety and anti-bullying procedures.
- Lunchtime supervisors and other supervisory staff are trained and briefed in safety and anti-bullying procedures.
- Senior leaders and governors regularly monitor the extent of bullying in school and respond accordingly, reviewing the 'Anti-bullying policy' at least every two years, in consultation with pupils, staff, governors, parents, carers and the LA.
- Our ethos and curriculum teaches children to respect difference and value diversity. We openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, and appearance. Also, children from all family situations, including those who are 'Looked after children' or those with 'caring responsibilities' are celebrated. We teach children that using any prejudice-based language is unacceptable.
- We emphasise through our whole curriculum, assemblies, collective worship and RE lessons that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. We are made the way we are meant to be.
- We make it easy for pupils to report bullying so that they are assured that they will be listened to and incidents acted on.
- Pupils know that they can report bullying which may have occurred outside school including online bullying.
- School will always involve and support parents and carers and will inform them on any instances that take place in school and explain how school is tackling any forms of bullying.

#### **4. What can children do if they are being bullied?**

Each term, and when incidents occur, class teachers will discuss bullying and reinforce the following strategies with children:

- Remember that keeping quiet will not change the situation – it might even make the bullying worse.
- Remember that you do not deserve to be bullied and that it is wrong.
- Be proud of who you are. It is good to be an individual.
- Always let somebody know – even a close friend. You are never alone.
- Be assertive – shout “No!” Walk confidently away. Go straight to a teacher or member of staff.
- Fighting back may make things worse.
- It is best to tell an adult you trust straight away. You will get immediate support.
- Teachers and school staff will take you seriously and will deal with the bullies in a way which will not make the bullying any worse for you.

#### **5. What do you do if you know someone is being bullied?**

- Take action! Watching and doing nothing looks as if you are on the side of the bully. It makes the victim feel more unhappy and on their own.
- If you feel you cannot get involved, tell an adult immediately. Teachers will deal with the bully without getting you into trouble. If you do not get the help you need – tell the Deputy Head teacher or Head teacher.
- Do not be, or pretend to be, friends with a bully.
- Remember Jesus taught us to love one another, as he loves us.

#### **6. Role of Parents**

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy.

*If your child has been bullied:*

- calmly talk with your child about his/her experiences.
- make a note of what your child says including who was involved, how often the bullying has occurred, where it happened and what happened.
- reassure your child that he/she has done the right thing to tell you about the bullying.
- explain to your child that should any further incidents occur he/she should report them to a teacher immediately.
- make an appointment to see your child’s teacher.
- explain to the teacher the problems your child is experiencing.

*When talking with teachers about bullying:*

- try to stay calm and bear in mind that the teacher may be hearing that your child is being bullied for the first time or may have heard conflicting accounts of an incident.
- be as specific as possible about what your child says has happened, give dates, places and names of other children involved.
- make a note of what action the school intends to take.
- ask if there is anything you can do to help your child or the school.
- stay in touch with the school and let them know if things improve as well as if problems continue

*If you are not satisfied:*

- check the school anti-bullying policy to see if agreed procedures are being followed
- make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Head Teacher and keep a record of the meeting.
- if this does not help, write to the Chair of Governors explaining your concerns and what you would like to see happening.

*If your child is bullying others:*

- talk with your child and explain that what he/she is doing is unacceptable and makes other children unhappy.
- show your child how he/she can join in with other children without bullying.
- make an appointment to see your child's teacher and explain the problems your child is experiencing as well as discussing how you can work together to stop him/her bullying others.
- regularly check with your child how things are going at school.
- give your child lots of praise and encouragement when he/she is co-operative or kind to other people.

*If your child is experiencing any form of online bullying:*

- ensure your child is careful whom they may be interactive with on online platforms, social media and whom they give their mobile phone number and e-mail address to. (Most social media sites have an age-limit of 13 years of age).
- check and print (or copy) the message and note exactly when a threatening message was sent.
- report the incident to the school in the first instance and, where necessary, report incidents to the police.



## **7. Sanctions**

The school will impose sanctions in line with the school Behaviour and Discipline Policy. These sanctions will always be applied fairly and consistently but in conjunction with positive behaviour management strategies. Children who are bullied may receive additional support from the School Counsellor and any children who display bullying behaviour may be placed on an individual behaviour plan. School will communicate with parents of both the alleged perpetrator and victim. Because the school views bullying as unacceptable, in the event of all other avenues being exhausted, or in particularly serious cases, this may lead to exclusion.

## **8. Strategies to prevent and reduce bullying**

The school adopts a range of strategies to prevent and reduce bullying, to raise awareness of bullying and support victims and bullies.

Including:

- Co-operative group work.
- Circle Time.
- Whole school and Key-Stage assemblies
- Peer mediation.
- Peer counselling.
- Buddy systems.
- Catholic integrated curriculum.
- Teaching of the virtues and British values.
- PSHE programmes.

## **9. Pupil Voice**

The school encourages pupil voice at all levels of school life. Our School Councillors meet half-termly to discuss a range of issues in school and to be the voice to the Head teacher on behalf of their peers.

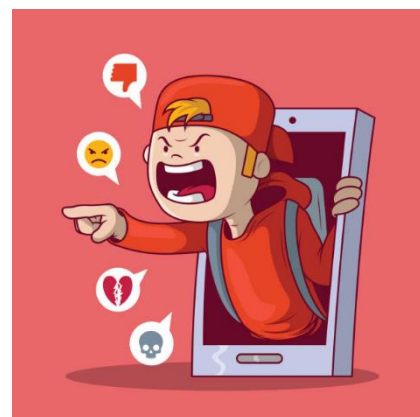
The School Council Representative have designed an anti-bullying poster which is displayed in every classroom – See Appendix A.

## 10. Appendix A – Anti-bullying Poster

The children at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, define bullying as constant, hurtful words and actions.

To this we say:

**STOP.** Tell the person hurting you to “stop it, I don’t like it.”



**Tell.** Tell an adult. They will help you.



**Forgive.** We forgive the person who has hurt us.