



**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

*'With Jesus, we learn together through  
faith and love'*

# **Anti-Bullying Policy**

**Updated September 2022**

## Statement of Intent

At St. Mary's we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

**We recognize that each person is unique and is to be valued.**

**St. Mary's should be a happy and secure learning environment.**

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

## What Is Bullying?

Bullying is repeated use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

• Bullying can be defined as "behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally". (DfE "Preventing and Tackling Bullying", July 2017)

## Bullying - a definition by the DFE

There is no legal definition of bullying.

However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)

## Types of Bullying

In school Staff are aware of the many different forms of bullying

There are many different forms and types of bullying. **Bullying can happen to anyone:**

- Emotional      being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical        pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence

- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet ,such as email & internet chat room misuse  
Mobile threats by text messaging & calls  
Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera & video facilities

Bullying occurs when the above behaviour occurs and is repeated

## **Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?**

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

St. Mary's has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

It is the job of all staff to be proactive in helping to prevent and deal with bullying.

## **Links with other school policies and practices**

This policy links with several school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints policy
- Child protection policy
- Internet safety and Acceptable Use Policies

## **Objectives of this Policy**

- The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied,
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- That all members of the school community will work together to ensure the message is given that bullying will not be tolerated at St. Mary's

**Children will be made aware that bullying is unacceptable and the consequences of bullying. This will be done through lessons, assemblies etc. There will also be a Friendship Week each year when children spend more time reflecting on how unacceptable bullying is and that we must speak up to stop it happening. Throughout the year during assemblies and lessons children also learn about how we should treat each other and that any form of**

**bullying or being unkind to others is not acceptable. The children learn about and discuss feelings, friendship etc.**

## **Signs and Symptoms**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

All staff will be aware of checking the welfare of the children, mood changes, playground behaviour etc.

If anyone has any concerns about a child it will be discussed during the staff Monday morning meeting to inform all staff or with a member of the SMT when straight away.

## **Child on Child Abuse**

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child on child abuse, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

To prevent child on child abuse and address the wider societal factors that can influence behaviour, the school will educate pupils about abuse, its forms, and the importance of discussing any concerns and respecting others through the curriculum, assemblies RSE and PSHE lessons

## **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying can take many forms and can go even further than face-to-face bullying by invading personal space and home life, and can target more than one person. It can also take place across age groups and target pupils, staff and others, and may take place inside school, within the wider community, at home  
Cyberbullying can include the following:

- Threatening, intimidating or upsetting text messages
- Threatening or embarrassing pictures and video clips
- Disclosure of private sexual photographs or videos with the intent to cause distress
- Silent or abusive phone calls
- Using the victim's phone to harass others, to make them think the victim is responsible
- Threatening or bullying emails, possibly sent using a pseudonym or someone else's name
- Menacing or upsetting responses to someone in a chatroom
- Unpleasant messages sent via instant messaging
- Unpleasant or defamatory information posted to blogs, personal websites and social networking sites, e.g. Facebook

**NB.** The above list is not exhaustive, and cyberbullying may take other forms.

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to cyberbullying. The school views cyberbullying with the same severity as any other form of bullying if they become aware of any incidents.

In accordance with the Education Act 2011, the school has the right to examine and delete files from pupils' personal devices, e.g. mobiles phones, where there is good reason to do so. This power applies to all schools and there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone.

## **Bullying outside of school**

Staff will remain aware that bullying can happen both in and outside of school. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it will be investigated and acted upon. In all cases of misbehaviour or bullying, members of staff can only discipline the pupil on school premises, or elsewhere when the pupil is under the lawful control of the member of staff, e.g. on a school trip. All incidents must be reported to the Head teacher

The headteacher has a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives the headteacher the power to regulate pupils' conduct when they are not on school premises, and therefore, not under the lawful charge of a school staff member.

Teachers have the power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside of the school premises. This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as the local park etc.

## **Anti Bullying**

All incidents will be recorded and followed up in line with the school Behaviour Policy. All staff will be made aware of any incidents to ensure children are carefully watched and monitored after any incidence of bullying has occurred.

Also the school will meet with the victim's parents/ carers and the child who has done the bullying.

It is important the school continues to check that there is no reoccurrence of the bullying and the child who has been bullied is happy, secure and safe in school. Also the child who has done the bullying understands this behaviour is unacceptable and the consequences of their actions.

## **Procedures**

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. Bullying incidents will be recorded by staff
3. Parents will be notified of any incidents
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
5. Support for the victim in school
6. Work with Bully to show them the hurt they have caused by their behaviour
7. The perpetrator will be helped to understand the consequences of their actions and warned that there must be no further incidents.
8. The headteacher will inform the perpetrator of the type of sanction to be used
9. All staff will be informed and they will carefully monitor the victim and the bully
10. The victim will be supported in school
11. The parents of the victim will be contacted on a regular basis after it has been dealt to check the child is fine and nothing else has occurred.
12. At Staff meetings staff will discuss any concerns

## **Outcomes**

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place. (This will work in line with our behaviour policy)
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## **Prevention**

The school will do different things with the children throughout the year to ensure that bullying is prevented.

As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Learning about school rules
- Lessons about how we treat others and feeling
- Assemblies about how we treat each other and feeling
- Message about respect for each other
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about how we treat each other
- Social groups
- Staff talking to children about friendship and how we treat each other

- Lessons and talks about using the internet safety.
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Friendship Week
- Staff using resources that help children to learn about how we treat each other.

This Policy will be reviewed every year

Visit the Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) for further support, links and advice.