



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

DATE: - 26th March 2019

SIGNED BY CHAIR OF LGB:.....

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: - Spring 2022

REVIEW FREQUENCY:- Three yearly

St Mary's Anti Bullying Policy

Mission Statement:

St Mary's School endeavours to give all children the best educational opportunities within a Catholic Christian community that values the individual recognises the worth of each person and welcomes everyone.

We aim to combine excellence in teaching with enjoyment in learning through the provision of an inclusive, balanced and broadly based curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepares children for the opportunities and responsibilities of secondary education and later life.

Equalities Statement/Principles

St Mary's Catholic Primary School acknowledges the Equality Act (2010) and the Public Sector Equality Duty (2011). We understand our duty to every member of the school community to ensure they feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth. At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all with respect and dignity and exercising our duty in relation to the nine protected characteristics. We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our safeguarding and child protection policy. It is one of a suit of policies and procedures which encompasses the safeguarding responsibility of the school.

At St. Mary's School we believe that every child has the right to receive their education free from humiliation, aggression and abuse. The schools anti-bullying policy aims to be rigorous and explicit – in short any type of bullying will not be tolerated.

We aim to provide a happy, caring environment that nurtures and supports the developmental needs of individual children within the school community.

Keeping quiet encourages bad behaviour!

At Saint Mary's we have:

- regular opportunities for pupils to talk about what's going on.
- clearly understood, consistent, open and fair responses to bad behaviour.
- a commitment to constantly reinforce the 'telling' message.

What is Bullying

Bullying usually has three common features:

1. It is deliberate, hurtful behaviour
2. It is repeated, often over a period of time
3. It is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves

There are three main types of bullying:

1. physical; hitting, kicking, taking belongings
2. verbal; name-calling, insulting, remarks against protected characteristics
3. indirect; spreading nasty stories, excluding from groups

Bullying can be done verbally, in writing or images, **including through communication technology (cyber bullying) e.g.: graffiti, text messaging, e-mail or postings on websites.**

This policy covers all types of bullying, such as that towards disabled children and young people, homophobic, cyber, LGBT, racist, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.

Procedures for Dealing with Incidents of Bullying

The following steps will be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be investigated by a member of the SMT.
- A clear account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Head of School
- Class teachers will be kept informed
- Parents will be informed by the investigating SMT member who will also inform both parents of the outcome.
- Appropriate consequences will be applied in consultation with all parties concerned up to and including permanent exclusion.

The first step will be to gain a clear understanding of exactly what has been happening. If it is agreed that bullying has taken place the aim of the intervention will be to stop the abuse. The most effective way this can happen is to ensure that the bully changes his or her behaviour. They are the cause of the damage and the first step must always be to stop their unsafe actions.

The child doing the bullying will be encouraged to recognise that their behaviour is upsetting or damaging the victim by encouraging them to view things from the victims point of view, and also that the other people in the school do not like the behaviour. He/she will be removed from the classroom/playground environment where the bullying has occurred and will be clearly informed about why they are being removed. The child doing the bullying may be asked to write a letter home explaining why he/she has been removed, as a useful way of checking if they understand the reasons clearly.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a form tutor or member of staff of their choice
- reassuring the pupil
- offering continuous support
- restoring self-esteem and confidence

The following steps may be taken:

- Discussions with the child as to appropriate behaviour
- official warnings to cease offending
- loss of morning and/or lunchtime play

- exclusion from certain areas of school premises
- minor fixed-term exclusion (up to 5 days)
- major fixed-term exclusion (6-15 days)
- permanent exclusion

Parents/Guardians

Parents will be made fully aware of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and the Behaviour Policy. It will be stressed that if the bullying continues then appropriate disciplinary sanctions will be used.

Maintaining an anti-bullying initiative

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through:

- use of curriculum opportunities (in particular PSHE, RE, Circle Time)
- Use of purpose-made curriculum designed to address in-school issues, either for the whole class or small groups
- Use of opportunities throughout the school calendar and at certain times of the school day to raise awareness of the negative consequences of bullying (e.g. Anti-Bullying Week in November of each year; and whole school assemblies).

Cyber bullying

At St Mary's School, we take this bullying as seriously as any other type of bullying and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually.

At St Mary's School, pupils are taught how to:

- understand how to use technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misusing them.
- know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber bullied.
- report any problems with cyber bullying. If they do have a problem, they can talk to the school, parents, the police, the mobile network (for phone) or the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.

(For further advice see Appendix A)

This policy should be read in conjunction with St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Acceptable Use Policy

Appendix A

For pupils:

If you're being bullied by phone or the Internet

- Remember, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can be traced.
- Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent, or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- Don't give out your personal details online - if you're in a chat room, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.
- If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender.

There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example, www.kidscape.org.uk and www.ceop.police.uk have some useful tips:

Emails

- Never reply to unpleasant or unwanted emails — the sender wants a response, so don't give them that satisfaction.
- Keep the emails as evidence. And tell an adult about them.
- Ask an adult to contact the sender's Internet Service Provider (ISP) by writing abuse@ and then the host, e.g. **abuse@hotmail.com**

Web bullying

- If the bullying is on a website tell a teacher or parent, just as you would if the bullying were face-to-face – even if you don't actually know the bully's identity.
- Serious bullying should be reported to the police - for example threats of a physical or sexual nature. Your parent or teacher will help you do this.

Three steps to stay out of harms way

- Respect other people - online and off. Don't spread rumours about people or share their secrets, including their phone numbers and passwords.
- If someone insults you online or by phone, stay calm – and ignore them.
- 'Do as you would be done by.' Think how you would feel if you were bullied. You're responsible for your own behaviour – make sure you don't distress other people or cause them to be bullied by someone else.