**St Clare’s Catholic Primary School**

 **Following in the footsteps of Jesus**

 **Anti- Bullying Policy**

**Statement of Intent**

At St Clare’s Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a nurturing, caring and safe environment for all pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. 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, whether to child or adult, is expected to tell a member of staff.

**What Is Bullying?**

Bullying is a subjective experience that can take many forms. Various national and international definitions of bullying exist and most of these definitions have three things in common which reflect children’s experience of bullying and evidence gained from extensive research in this area. The three common aspects in most definitions of bullying are that:

1. It is deliberately hurtful behaviour

2. It is usually repeated over time

3. There is an imbalance of power, making it hard for those bullied to defend themselves.

**Bullying can include:**

* **Relational** by having nasty stories spread about a child or group of children; being left out, ignored or excluded from groups.
* **Physical**  by being punched, pushed or hurt; made to give up money or belongings; having clothing, property or belongings damaged; being forced to do something they don’t want to do.
* **Verbal**  being teased in a nasty way; insulted about their appearance, race, religion, culture or sexual orientation; called names in other ways or having offensive comments directed at them.
* **Cyber** via text messages; via instant messenger and social networking sites; via email; via images or videos posted on the internet or spread via mobile phones or other electronic devices.

**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. At St Clare’s Catholic Primary School we have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

**Preventing, Identifying and Responding to Bullying**

We will:

• Work with staff and outside agencies to identify all forms of prejudice driven bullying.

• Actively provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils’ social and emotional skills, including their resilience.

• Consider all opportunities for addressing bullying including through the curriculum, through displays, Life to the Full, through peer support, Circle Time, Assemblies, Play Leaders, Mini-Vinnies, and with the School Council.

• Train all staff to identify bullying and follow school policy and procedures on bullying.

• The work of the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and Family Support Worker ensure that vulnerable children are supported and protected from bullying or becoming a bully.

• Actively create “safe spaces” for vulnerable children.

**Procedures**

1. Report bullying incidents to staff. Incidents recorded by staff and given to the Headteacher. These are responded to and kept on CPOMs. Any suspicions of bullying must be investigated through discussion with the ‘victim’ and the discussion recorded.

2. Incidents to be reported to Head teacher as soon as possible and the Head teacher will investigate further by interviewing all involved

3. In serious cases the Head teacher will inform parents and they will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem

4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted

5. The pupil being bullied will be offered reassurance, continuous support and will be worked with to restore self-esteem and confidence

6. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly with regular reviews taking place to ensure this.

7. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour through the use of circle time, social groups, anger management etc.

8. If the alleged bully is an adult this needs to be reported directly to the head teacher, or Chair of governors if the alleged bully is the head teacher, who will investigate further and follow guidelines set out in the Complaints and Whistle-blowing policy.

**Outcomes**

1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.

2) In serious cases, temporary suspension or even permanent exclusion will be considered, but remains at the discretion of the head teacher.

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.

5) Some incidents may be onward reported to other agencies e.g. racial incidents.

**Prevention**

At St Clare’s Catholic Primary School we use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. These include:

• having a set of school rules written by the children and displayed and adhered to

• signing a behaviour contract if appropriate

• reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly

• having discussions about bullying and why it mailers

• teaching about bullying through PSHCE curriculum

• ‘Worry boxes’ in all classrooms to allow children a safe place to contact a teacher

• ‘Feelings’ display where children can show how they are feeling and will be approached by a member of staff if they are feeling sad to discuss this

Policy updated: June 2023

Review date: June 2026

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 0808 800 5793

Children’s Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

Bullying Online [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

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