



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 of our 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 the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression that has the effect of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can include:

- **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 and social networking misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities.

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.

Signs and Symptoms

Some incidents of bullying are described directly by the victim. In addition, 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
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- regularly 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"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money! lunch has been stolen)
- 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
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received.

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

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff. Incidents recorded by staff and given to the Headteacher. These are responded to and kept in the Cause for Concern file. 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 the matter 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 matters
- teaching about bullying through PSHCE curriculum
- 'Worry boxes' in all classrooms to allow children a safe place to contact a teacher
- Signs displayed in around school to remind children of people they can speak to
- '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
- Use of toilets are monitored in the day to limit the number of children in the toilets statistically this is the main place for bullying to occur.

Policy updated: September 2021

Review date: September 2024

Signed: Chair of Governors

Signed: Headteacher

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

Kidscape website www.kidscape.org.uk for further support links and advice