



St. Clare's R.C. Primary School

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Produced by PSHCE Co-ordinator in consultation with KS2 children
Using KIDSCAPE pro-forma.

SOME GUIDELINES

Mission Statement:

**“Guided by Jesus Christ, our teacher, we journey together,
learning to dream, and achieve.”**

Statement of Intent

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. 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 the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. It is deliberate, ongoing and demonstrates a misuse of power. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, leaving people out, tormenting, constantly pulling faces, making threatening gestures, purposely shutting doors, mimicking what people do, taking or hiding other people's belongings, destroying other people's property
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, scratching, snatching, throwing things at people, tripping people or any use of violence
- Racist racist name calling, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, swearing, spreading rumours, teasing, saying unkind things about a person's family
- 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

(This section includes ideas given by our pupils.)

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- No one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Bullying hurts.
- Bullying ruins lives.
- Because we try to be friends so that our school is a place where everyone can grow, achieve and develop on a daily basis.
- So that people in our school do not feel sad or unhappy.
- So that everyone feels safe and confident within the school environment.
- So that bullying can be dealt with as soon as possible.
- So that bullying doesn't escalate and include more people.
- To stop people being bullied and help the bullies become better people.
- So that everyone is confident about coming to school.
- Because we don't want to be a school of bystander

Everybody has the right to feel safe and happy within our school. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

(This section includes ideas given by our pupils.)

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors and teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- All members of our school community should understand that they have a role to play in addressing bullying.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

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
- begs to be taken to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- is unwilling to have their parents visit school
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn and begins to spend time alone
- seem anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- becomes moody, aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is unwilling to talk about their school day
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- becomes sensitive about their appearance
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or property 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)
- 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.

(This section includes ideas given by our pupils.)

What We at St. Clare's do to Prevent Bullying

- We have a pupil promise.
- We agree Class Rules/Rights and Responsibilities.
- Our older children support the younger ones and take responsibility for them e.g. through Prayer Partners.
- We have people to talk with if needed.
- We have small friendship groups / Time to Talk groups.
- Visiting drama groups encourage us to reflect upon our rights and responsibilities.
- We give people a chance to talk things through.
- We have an ethos of forgiveness / every day is a fresh day.
- We welcome new students and show them around the school.
- We use Good to be Green and we always have a chance to turn things around.
- We encourage people to tell.
- We report problems.
- We award certificates, smileys, privileges and stickers to make children feel confident.
- We promote our school ethos through displays.
- We have a room to go to if we need to talk.
- We participate in anti-bullying week.

(This section includes ideas given by our pupils.)

What happens at St. Clare's if bullying is discovered?

1. Report bullying incidents to staff: it is important to tell someone so that the school can help.
2. Pupils will be given the opportunity to talk or write about their experiences.
3. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated by the Class Teacher, a Senior Teacher or the Inclusion Lead and the bullying stopped quickly.
4. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff. The Head Teacher SLT or Inclusion Lead should be notified.
5. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
6. The school may arrange a meeting for the bullied child and the child accused of bullying and their parents / carers with a mediator to try to resolve the situation.
7. When necessary, the governors will be informed by the Head Teacher.
8. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
9. An attempt will be made to help the victim regain self esteem. Support may include: Emotional Literacy, individual / small group support or in house Caritas support.
10. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour. Support may include: Emotional Literacy, individual / small group support.

Note: It is essential that pupils, parents and carers feel that bullying is treated seriously. During discussion, parents and carers will be made aware of, and provided with a copy, of the school's complaints procedure.

Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise when they understand how they have hurt the person being bullied. Other consequences may take place (See the Behaviour Policy). These will be tailored to fit the nature of the incidents, plus the age and circumstances of the child / children. These consequences may be confidential.
2. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled: We will bring the children together and ask them to use 'I' Statements to explain how they are feeling, ask them to listen to each other and try to reach a way forward.
3. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
4. After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0300 0115 142
Children's Legal Centre	0808 800 5792
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0808 802 5544
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	www.bullying.co.uk

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