

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Anti -Bullying Policy

This policy forms part of our behaviour policy

At St Mary's School, in line with our Mission Statement, we believe that each person has the right to be respected as an individual. Their experience of school should be of a happy, safe and supportive environment where they can develop spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally regardless of colour, race or gender.

At St Mary's we consider that bullying is:

- Hurting another person repeatedly and on purpose by what you say or do.
- When a child believes themselves to be more powerful and picks on a "weaker" child.

We do not believe that an occasional fight or quarrel between two pupils, is bullying.

At St Mary's we find bullying behaviour unacceptable!!!

STOP Bullying because you will pay the price!

This is how we aim to prevent bullying:

- By following the behaviour policy.
- By teaching our children to respect themselves and others and to tolerate their differences.
- By rewarding examples of acceptable behaviour.
- Discussing bullying issues in P.S.H.E through Circle Time, role play and other activities.
- By setting playtime rules and monitoring for signs of bullying.
- Involving all staff members, pupils, parents and governors in the prevention of bullying.
- Through actively encouraging children to "speak out" about bullying.
- Through encouraging peer support.
- Through raising the awareness of this policy regularly with the whole school community.
- Through assemblies, newsletters etc.

Bullying is primitive.

Responding to incidents of bullying

All staff, teaching and non-teaching will:

- Listen carefully if a child says he / she has been bullied.
- Talk in a clear, honest and direct manner.
- Respond immediately, with possible follow up in the longer term.
- Record, in writing, what has happened, who was involved and what action has been taken.

Procedures to be followed if minor bullying has occurred:

- Establish that bullying has occurred by finding out the facts and *recording them*.
- Have an individual talk with each person involved and then with the whole group. Invite the victim to describe how the bullying actions are making them feel. A demerit or sad face may be given in order to stress disappointment in the bullying behaviour – in line with our Behaviour policy.
- A follow – up meeting will be arranged to monitor the changes in behaviour. This will normally be for a week later.
- If bullying ceases, the matter is dropped.

For serious incidences of bullying or if the bullying behaviour does not alter the following procedures will be followed:

- A meeting will be held between the Head Teacher, class teacher, pupil and parents.
- Targets linked to rewards will be set in line with the Special Education Needs Policy. In persistent cases an individual Education Plan and Behaviour chart will be set up for the bully.
- A date for review will be set with the parents.
- If the bullying behaviour has still not changed, Lunchtime Exclusion may follow and ultimately Fixed Term or Permanent Exclusion.

All incidents will be fully recorded in writing

Advice and guidance for parents:

Watch for signs of unhappiness, frequent headaches, tummy aches etc.

Take an interest in your child's school day.

If you think your child is being bullied, inform the school and arrange a meeting.

In consultation with the school, devise ways to help your child develop positive strategies and assertiveness skills, but do not encourage retaliation.

For parents to say to their child:

It is OK to tell

It is your responsibility to tell if you see or know about bullying happening to someone else.

Children should not tolerate bullying behaviour in their friendship group.

It is the responsibility of the whole school community
to implement this policy

For any further info on bullying
Please speak to the PSHE co-ordinator.

This policy was originally ratified by the Governing Body in spring 2016 and reviewed every 3 years

Date.....

Signed.....

It will be reviewed in spring 2019