



# Anti-bullying Policy

Reviewed: September 2018

## St Ignatius Catholic Primary School

### Anti-bullying Policy

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 an 'OK to tell' school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the Head teacher or another member of staff.

#### **What Is Bullying?**

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional      being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Verbal          name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Personal      related to special educational needs (SEN), disabilities, and appearance or health conditions.
- 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 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. Our school takes seriously the responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

#### **Signs of Bullying**

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 unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- 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

## **Procedures**

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- if bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- a clear account of the incident will be recorded and given to the head teacher
- The head teacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- Class teachers will be kept informed and will monitor the situation
- parents will be kept informed
- Punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned.

After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff.
- reassuring the pupil
- offering continuous support
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- discussing what happened
- discovering why the pupil became involved
- establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil.

After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## **Prevention**

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, regular whole school anti-bullying awareness initiatives, assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Written and approved: September 2012

Reviewed: September 2013, September 2014, September 2015, September 2016, September 2017 and September 2018

Next review: September 2019