



ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

Mission Statement

"I called you by your name, you are mine." Isaiah 43

The mission of our school is to support and further the teachings of Christ and His Church.

We welcome and embrace individuals of all abilities and cultural backgrounds.

We aim to enhance and celebrate their moral, physical, social and emotional development, so that they may reach their full potential in an atmosphere of stability, care and respect.

We believe that education is for all and in partnership with parents, carers, children and the wider Catholic community: we will strive and succeed in a wholly inclusive setting.

This policy was adopted October 2017

The policy is to be reviewed October 2018

Written by: Louise Prestidge

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Louise Prestidge

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Claire Burns

Anti-bullying policy should be read alongside the DfE's guidance: Preventing and tackling bullying Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies July 2017

Rationale

At St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School we recognise that bullying can occur. When it does it can be harmful both physically and emotionally for the victim. It can also be a sign that the child carrying out the bullying has underlying issues that need to be addressed. The purpose of this policy is to enable adults in the school and parents to recognise bullying when it takes place and to deal with it effectively. It must be made profoundly clear that we will **not** tolerate bullying at St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School.

Here at St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School we created an ethos of good behaviour where children treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. That culture extends beyond the classroom to the corridors, the dining hall, the playground, and beyond the school gates including travel to and from school. Values of respect for staff and other pupils, an understanding of the value of education, and a clear understanding of how our actions affect others permeate the whole school environment and are reinforced by staff and older pupils who set a good example to the rest.

Aims

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children 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.

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.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Safeguarding children and young people DFE 'Preventing and tackling bullying Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies': July 2017

When there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm' a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern under the Children Act 1989. Where this is the case, the school staff will discuss with the designated safeguarding lead (Louise Prestidge) and report their concerns to their local authority children's social care and work with them to take appropriate action.

What Is Bullying?

DFE 'Preventing and tackling bullying Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies': July 2017

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular

groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case.

Many experts say that bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. This could involve perpetrators of bullying having control over the relationship which makes it difficult for those they bully to defend themselves. The imbalance of power can manifest itself in several ways, it may be physical, psychological (knowing what upsets someone), derive from an intellectual imbalance, or by having access to the support of a group, or the capacity to socially isolate. It can result in the intimidation of a person or persons through the threat of violence or by isolating them either physically or online.

Bullying Definition

At St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, we discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, with all children through assemblies and PSHE lessons. We agree that bullying can be:

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

Cyber-bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

At St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic School we follow Childnet Cyberbullying guidance.

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, we will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - looking at use of the school systems;
 - identifying and interviewing possible witnesses;
 - contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:
 - support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content;

- confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law.
- Ensure that sanctions are applied to the person responsible for the cyberbullying; the school will take steps to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help that they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online: This may include:
 - advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply;
 - providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists;
 - helping those involved to think carefully about what private information they may have in the public domain.

Racist Bullying

This refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that make the person feel unwelcome marginalised and excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity culture, faith community, national origin or national status.

Homophobic Bullying

This occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian, gay or bisexual people.

Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that some groups of pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Looked After Children
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
- Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children from ethnic minorities
- Children entitled to Free School Meals
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual

Supporting pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the designated safeguarding lead (Louise Prestidge), or a member of staff of their choice.
- Being advised to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to concerns and build resilience as appropriate.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Providing ongoing support; this may include: working and speaking with staff, offering formal counselling, engaging with parents and carers.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this could include support through Early Help or Specialist Children's Services, or support through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Children who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.

- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Sanctioning, in line with school behaviour/discipline policy; this may include official warnings, removal of privileges (including online access when encountering cyberbullying concerns), and fixed-term or permanent exclusions.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance; this may include involvement from the Police or referrals to Early Help, Specialist Children's Services, or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as appropriate.

Strategies for the prevention and reduction of bullying

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential to keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies as well as PSHE lessons, children are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off argument.

Whole school initiatives and proactive teaching strategies will be used throughout the school to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing the opportunities for bullying to occur. These include:

- PSHE teaching
- Taking part in national anti-bullying week
- Awareness through anti-bullying assemblies
- Circle time
- Drama/role play activities
- Implementation of playground mentors/playground friends in both the infants and the juniors
- Playground buddies for new children who are settling into school
- By following of the whole school behaviour policy which includes using praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour.
- By encouraging the whole school community to model appropriate behaviour towards one another.

Role of Parents

Parents have an important part to play in our anti bullying policy. We ask parents to:

Look out for unusual behaviour in their child - for example not wanting to attend school, feeling ill regularly, or not completing work to their usual standard.

Always take an active role in your child's education, enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent time with etc.

If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform the school. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.

If you feel a child has bullied your child, please do not approach that child in the playground or on their way home. Please inform the school immediately.

It is important that you do not advise your child to fight back or to repeat the bully's behaviour. This will only make the situation worse.

Tell your child it is not their fault they are being bullied.

Reinforce the school policy on bullying and ensure your child is not afraid to ask for help.

If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform the school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately.

Signs and Symptoms

Staff and Parents should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including: Physical: unexplained bruised, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.

Emotional: losing interest in school, withdrawn, secretive, unusual shows of temper, refusal to say why unhappy, high level of anxiety, mood swings, tearfulness for no reason, lack of confidence, headaches and stomach aches, signs of depression.

Behavioural: asking to be taken to school, coming home for lunch, taking longer to get home, asks for more money, using different routes to school, 'losing' more items than usual, sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.

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

Procedures for reporting and responding to bullying incidents

Allegations and incidents of bullying at St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School will be taken seriously by all staff and dealt with impartially and promptly. All of those involved will have the opportunity to be heard. Staff will support all children involved whilst the allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved.

The following procedures are to be followed:

- Incidents of reported bullying need to be reported to the class teacher or the Deputy/Headteacher. The class teacher will speak to all children involved about the incident separately or if appropriate as a group. This will be reported to the Deputy/Headteacher.

The problem will be identified and possible solutions suggested

- Staff will attempt to adopt a problem solving approach through circle times and/or drama activities which will move children on from having them to justify their behaviour.

- Appropriate action will be taken to end the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying.

- The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place and appropriate sanctions applied i.e. loss of playtimes etc in accordance with the sanctions listed in our behaviour policy

- If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.

- An attempt will be made and support given to help the bully (bullies) understand and change his/her behaviour.

- If the bullying continues, parents will be informed and invited into the school for a meeting to discuss the problem.

- Meetings, with both parents and pupils present, may be used to resolve the issues.

- All reported incidents of bullying will be recorded and kept on file.

- In repeated or serious cases the school may follow the following sanctions:

Lunch time exclusion
Fixed term exclusion
Permanent exclusion

Monitoring of Policy

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher and through staff meetings and will be reviewed annually. Following an annual review, suggestions for amendments will be presented to the school council and shared with the whole school community during Anti Bullying Week every November.

Louise Prestidge
Headteacher