

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy



‘Walking in the footsteps of Jesus, loving and serving together’

Introduction

The governing body and staff of St Joseph's are committed to eradicating bullying from our community. It is recognised that all schools are likely to have a problem with bullying at some time. In present times this may happen through misuse of the internet and other technologies. As a Christian community that subscribes wholeheartedly to the gospel values of compassion, tolerance and forgiveness we operate a zero tolerance approach to any incidents of bullying or perceived bullying.

This policy aims to produce a consistent response by the school to any bullying incidents that may take place.

Procedure

Recognising the Signs of Bullying

Bullying is deliberately harmful behaviour over a period of time. Staff will watch out for the signs and symptoms of the following forms of bullying:

- physical
- verbal
- indirect, e.g. spreading rumours, social exclusion. The internet and other technologies may be used to engage in this type of bullying.

The school recognises that any pupil can be bullied but certain factors that can make bullying more likely are:

- a lack of close friends in the school
- shyness
- a disability or some other obvious difference.

Staff will suspect bullying is occurring if a pupil:

- becomes withdrawn and anxious
- shows a deterioration in his or her work
- starts to attend school erratically
- has spurious illnesses
- persistently arrives late at school

- prefers to stay with adults.

Preventing Bullying

At St Joseph's we will take every opportunity to demonstrate to pupils, through the curriculum and by example, that we are totally opposed to bullying. Circle times and PSHCE lessons and Assemblies are used to discuss the matter with the children.

Staff will not ignore bullying or suspected bullying. All school staff will, wherever possible, intervene to prevent bullying incidents from taking place.

The school will encourage pupils to report any incidents of bullying to a teacher or other adult at school or the School Council.

Questionnaires are used to discover children's perceptions on bullying.

The school will ensure that all staff, pupils and parents, are aware of the school's anti-bullying policy.

Staff will praise and encourage pupils when they show kindness and consideration to others.

A split lunch hour, playground rota for games, trained TAs and MDSAs and a zoned playground all help to create a feeling of security for vulnerable children.

Children are more likely to bully their peers if they are bored. We have introduced equipment at lunchtimes and a rota for games.

Dealing with Bullying Incidents

Any incidents of bullying will be taken seriously and dealt with as quickly as possible. Staff will do all they can to support the victims of bullying and make it clear to the bully that this behaviour is not acceptable. In dealing with bullying, school staff will:

- not ignore it
- not make premature assumptions
- listen to all accounts of the incidents
- adopt a problem-solving approach that encourages pupils to find solutions rather than simply justify themselves
- make regular follow-up checks to ensure that bullying has not resumed.

If a Pupil is Bullied

Staff who receive a report of a bullying incident from a pupil will:

- listen to the pupil's account of the incident
- reassure the pupil that reporting the bullying incident was the right thing to do
- make it clear to the pupil that he or she is not to blame for what has happened
- make a note of what the pupil says

- explain that the pupil should report any further incidents to a teacher or other member of staff immediately.

Staff will ask the pupil:

- what has happened
- how often it has happened
- who was involved
- where it happened
- who saw what happened
- what he or she has done about it already.

Advice to Pupils

The school will advise pupils who are caught up in bullying incidents to:

- stay calm and look as confident as possible
- be firm and clear, look the bully in the eye and tell them to stop
- get away from the situation as quickly as possible
- immediately tell an adult what has happened.

Helping the Bullies to Change

Staff will spend time to help pupils who have bullied others to change their behaviour. If a pupil is bullying others, staff will:

- talk to the pupil and explain that bullying is wrong and makes others unhappy
- discuss with the pupil how to join in with others without bullying
- talk to the pupil about how things are going at school, his or her progress and friends
- give the pupil lots of praise and encouragement when he or she is being kind and considerate to others.

Recording Incidents

All incidents of bullying and discussions with the pupils involved will be recorded, along with the school's response.

Co-operating with Parents and Carers

The school will work with parents in dealing with bullying including that which happens through misuse of technology such as the internet. Bullying in school is everyone's problem. All staff, pupils and parents should be aware that bullying exists and share a commitment to combat it and to make the school a happier place for everyone.

The school will ensure that parents are aware of the school's anti-bullying policy.

Parents, carers and families are often the first to detect signs of bullying. Common physical symptoms include headaches, stomach aches, anxiety and irritability.

The school will encourage parents who suspect that a child is bullying or being bullied to immediately contact the school and make an appointment to see the child's teacher or head teacher.

Parents and carers will be informed of incidents and involved in discussions. The school will discuss with parents how they can work together to stop the bullying.

Arrangements for Monitoring and Evaluation

The Mission, Vision, and Ethos Committee of the Governing Body will monitor the impact of this policy biennially.

This Policy was reviewed by the Mission, Vision, and Ethos Committee at its meeting on 19th November 2016, and was approved and readopted by the Governing Body on 8th December 2016.