



**ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY  
SCHOOL and  
ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**'Live together, pray together, learn together and grow together  
in Christ'**



*'Live together, pray together,  
learn together  
and grow together in Christ'*

# ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

## 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. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

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

## 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.

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

## 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.

## 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

doesn't want to go on the school / public bus  
begs to be driven to school

changes their usual routine

is unwilling to go to school (school phobic) begins to truant

becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence  
starts stammering

attempts or threatens suicide or runs away

cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares  
feels ill in the morning

begins to do poorly in school work

comes home with clothes torn or books 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)  
becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable

is bullying other children or siblings stops eating

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

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

## Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour

## Outcomes

- 1) The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
- 2) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- 3) If possible, the pupils will be reconciled
- 4) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

## Prevention

We will use a range of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- making up role-plays
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters

## HELP ORGANISATIONS:

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	0808 800 5793
Children's Legal Centre	0845 345 4345
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4)	0845 1 205 204
Parentline Plus	0808 800 2222
Youth Access	020 8772 9900
Bullying Online	<a href="http://www.bullying.co.uk">www.bullying.co.uk</a>

Visit the Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk) for further support, links and advice.