

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

At St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, we are aware that bullying can occur to anyone in any setting, and recognise that preventing, raising awareness and consistently responding to any cases of bullying should be a priority.

Aims

We are determined to promote and maintain a school ethos where bullying behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, to ensure a safe and secure environment is sustained for all pupils. We aim for all pupils to unlock their potential academically, socially and personally through learning and playing in a safe and secure environment.

Bullying Definition

- Persistent behaviour by an individual or group that intentionally targets and hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally
- Bullying is usually physical hurting, name calling, nasty looks or leaving people out

Types of Bullying

Cyber-Bullying

Cyber bullying is any form of bullying which takes place online or through smartphones and tablets.

There are many ways of bullying someone online. Some types of cyber bullying are:

- sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages or pictures
- sending information about another person that is damaging and untrue
- Sharing photos of someone for the purpose of ridicule or spreading rumours
- repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm or harassment
- intentionally leaving someone out of a social media group

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 people perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Other types of bullying

This can be as a result of any kind of prejudice or difference (e.g. social, physical, intellectual) which can be a motive for bullying behaviour.

Vulnerable Groups

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

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

Bullying Prevention

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential in order to keep incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies and class discussions, pupils 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. Bullying can also be the focus of class philosophy sessions (P4C). Pupils are taught to tell an adult in school if they are being bullied or concerned that someone else is being bullied.

Responding to Bullying

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to the Senior Leadership Team. In any case of alleged bullying, either the Class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team should first establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and pupil witnesses if necessary and appropriate.

The Senior Leadership Team must establish if the actions are “rude” (i.e. unintentionally hurtful), “mean” (i.e. intentionally hurtful occurring once) or bullying (i.e. intentionally hurtful and repeated)

If the allegation of bullying is upheld, the Senior Leadership Team should seek to use a restorative approach with the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) together. The perpetrator(s) should fully understand the consequences of their actions on the victim(s), and apologise without reservation. Both parties should be clear that a repeat of these behaviours will not be acceptable. All bullying incidents must be recorded and parents of both parties must be informed and clear expectations and boundaries shared with the pupils involved.

Record Keeping

All documentation of confirmed or suspected cases of bullying must be kept with the head teacher. This includes incidences which have occurred either in or out of school.

Signs of Bullying

Staff should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including:

- Physical: unexplained bruises, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.
- Emotional: losing interest in school, withdrawn, secretive, unusual displays of temper, refusal to say why they are 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, taking longer to get home, asking for more money, using different routes to school, 'losing' more items than usual, sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.

St Anthony's teaches children to follow Gospel Values and therefore will not tolerate any form of bullying.

This policy should be read alongside the school's behaviour, safeguarding and e-safety policies.

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