



Alston Lane Catholic Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying can take many forms both verbal and physical, from name calling to assault. It is a persistent and "wilful conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone". (Tattum and Herbert)

At Alston Lane Catholic Primary School, staff, governors, pupils and parents must all share the responsibility for ensuring that bullying does not occur. We aim to foster an environment which protects against bullying but which can respond effectively in crisis. In order to ensure that bullying does not take place a consistent approach must be adopted by everyone. Pupils have the right to be taught in a safe, caring atmosphere.

Guidelines

1. Bullying is unacceptable inside or outside school.
2. Staff will always act to confront bullying behaviour.
3. Pupils will be encouraged to tell and teachers to listen.
4. All incidents of alleged bullying will be investigated and recorded on CPOMS
5. Pupils who bully will be subject to the school's behaviour for learning policy. Parents will be contacted at an early stage.
6. The victims of bullying will be offered a staff mentor to assist with the problem.

Children are encouraged to have respect for each other regardless of race, sex, gender, faith, physical or learning disability, religion and to be aware of the feelings of others. They need to have confidence that their fears/anxieties will be addressed by staff. Children should feel able to report incidents to any member of staff with whom they feel able to relate, in the knowledge that appropriate action will be taken.

Bullying behaviour can consist of:

verbal and non-verbal threats of violence, name calling, teasing, ignoring and shunning, incitement by others to commit an act of bullying, sexually or racially offensive remarks or behaviour, interfering with property, fighting, demanding money, property or favours with menace, vandalism, damaging another's efforts or possessions, borrowing equipment without permission, invading someone else's privacy.

Online bullying

Online bullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. Online bullying can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been regarded as safe or personal. The audience can be very large and reached rapidly. People who use online bullying may attempt to remain anonymous.

Child on child abuse

Child-on-child abuse (formerly called peer-on-peer abuse) is when a child under the age of 18 harms, abuses, or exploits another child. It can happen online or face-to-face, inside or outside of a school or college. Forms of child on child abuse include:

Physical harm: Hitting, kicking, biting, hair pulling, or physical violence.

Sexual violence and harassment: Rape, assault by penetration, unwanted sexual comments, touching, or upskirting.

Bullying: Cyberbullying, teasing, prejudice-based abuse, or hazing and initiation rituals.

Relationship abuse: Coercive control, threats, or pressure within teenage dating relationships.

Image-based abuse: Sharing nude or semi-nude images (sexting) without consent, or sextortion.

Any report or allegation of child on child abuse will be dealt with seriously and according to safeguarding procedures. Any incidents must be reported to the DSL who will risk assess the situation considering both the victim and the perpetrator. Parents will be informed immediately and a plan of action introduced following the risk assessment. The DSL will seek advice from the Local Authority Safeguarding Team in order to determine relevant support. All incidents will be treated seriously and with sensitivity. Please see our Whole School Policy For Safeguarding & Child Protection.

Alston Lane endeavours to promote a caring, Christian community through our mission and our curriculum. The PSHE curriculum teaches about anti-bullying issues and encourages the children to discuss and explore bullying in a structured and supportive environment. We have an annual anti-bullying week and online safety day where we address bullying including online bullying.

At Alston Lane we work hard to ensure that our pupils have the tools and strategies to prevent bullying from escalating and we support pupils in making informed decisions about what to do next.

See appendix A for support strategies for pupils and parents.

APPENDIX A

Pupils' response to bullying

"What can I do if I'm being bullied?"

Try these suggestions:

- tell an adult (parent, teacher, friend), someone you can trust
- try not to appear upset however hard that is
- tell yourself you don't deserve to be bullied #fighting back isn't the answer
- say NO to the bully and tell someone
- if you're in danger get away, don't worry about your possessions, your safety is more important try to keep away from places where bullying happens
- remember there's safety in numbers -stay with other people whenever you can
- practise walking quickly and confidently (even if you don't feel it)
- practise being assertive (in front of the mirror is a good place to start)

"What can I do if I see someone being bullied?"

"What if someone I know is a bully?"

Try these suggestions

- don't just stand by and watch
- help if you can
- show your disapproval -don't be afraid of letting others know you think bullying is wrong
- tell a teacher or another trusted adult. Don't worry if you think you're "telling tales", some children are too frightened to tell
- be supportive and offer help to someone you think is being bullied
- remember we're not all the same -try to find out more about what makes people different
- be careful about teasing -your "teasing" may be "hurting" someone else
- if you think you may be doing something that might be bullying, ask someone about it
- remember to treat others as you would like them to treat you.

Suggested guidelines for parents:

If your child is being bullied:

- encourage them to talk, but be patient as they may be distressed, so you can find out all the facts listen and try to avoid interrupting
- be sympathetic
- stay calm
- don't dwell on sensitive issues
- reassure them that you will do something about it
- tell them it happens to most people at some point
- try to help them to see the difficulty as a problem that can be solved peacefully 2ask them for ways they would like to make changes
- help them to develop ways to cope e.g. walking away, saying no, ignoring, talking and picking them up from school
- talk about nicknames and name calling and why it is often upsetting
- talk to the school
- take an interest in your child's school life and friends
- keep a written record of bullying
- try to keep everything in perspective

If your child is being a bully:

- encourage them to talk, find out what is happening and why
- stay calm
- let them know that bullying is wrong
- help them to understand the hurt they are causing
- explain to them how they should be behaving
- a child who is bullying is often having difficulties forming appropriate friendships –help them to find ways to make friends
- tell the school