



CHEW STOKE CHURCH SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy is written with reference to the Christian Foundation of the school.

'Confident in Learning, Caring in Life'

Our vision has been inspired by Luke 10:27

This policy should be taken and used as part of Chew Stoke Church School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our aims and values as a Church of England School.

INTRODUCTION

Chew Stoke Church School recognises the uniqueness and individuality of all members of its community and the need for everyone to be free from fear and discrimination. Our school vision statement 'Confident in Learning, Caring in Life' sums up the ultimate goal for pupils who learn in our school. This policy details our whole school anti-bullying approach; this is in support of our duty to safeguard learners in our care and to promote good behaviour and well-being. We will respond positively and effectively to each and every incident. This is one way that Chew Stoke Church School demonstrates its vision of providing a caring Christian environment for its community.

DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Our school has a clear definition of bullying, which we consider essential to ensure the school community is able to recognise and report bullying behaviour:

- Bullying behaviour deliberately causes hurt (either physically or emotionally).
- Bullying behaviour is usually repetitive.
- Bullying behaviour involves an imbalance of power; the person or people on the receiving end feel like they can't defend themselves.
- Bullying behaviour is not necessarily confined to the school premises.
- Bullying behaviour is not teasing between friends without intention to cause hurt and where this happens in a 'single incident'.
- Bullying behaviour is not falling out between friends after a quarrel or disagreement (though in some cases this can lead to bullying).
- Bullying behaviour does not include activities that all parties have consented to and enjoy where there has been no coercion.

The three main types of bullying behaviour are:

- Physical - hitting, kicking, taking belongings;
- Verbal - name calling, insulting, racist remarks (i.e. words focusing on a child's difference from other children);
- Indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups, posting messages or images on the internet by mobile telephones or through social media.

Measures are in the Guidelines to prevent bullying relating to:

- Race, religion and culture;
- Homophobic bullying;
- Bullying of pupils with SEN (Special Educational Needs) or disabilities;
- Sexist or sexual bullying;
- Cyberbullying.

'A pupil is bullied, or picked on, when another pupil or group of pupils say nasty things to him or her. It is also bullying when a pupil is hit, kicked, threatened, locked inside a room, sent nasty notes, when no-one ever talks to them and things like that. These things can happen frequently and it is difficult for the pupil being bullied to defend himself or herself. It is also bullying when a pupil is teased repeatedly in a nasty way.

However if two pupils of equal power or strength have an occasional fight or quarrel, this is not bullying'.

DfES Bullying –Don't suffer in silence – December 2000

RATIONALE

We will challenge bullying behaviour and respond promptly and effectively because:

1. Bullying behaviour is contrary to our school's Christian ethos and is banned in our school:
 - it puts at risk the safety and happiness of our pupils
 - they may become unhappy about coming to school
 - they may suffer injury - both physical and psychological and over a period of time they could lose self confidence and self esteem which could lead to them suffering serious long term psychological damage.
2. Children who are unhappy because of bullying are less likely to be able to concentrate and learn to their full potential, leading to underachievement.
3. It needs to be demonstrated to our children that bullying will not be tolerated. The school must be seen to act effectively to the pupils in general and the victim in particular.
4. We do not claim that "there is no bullying here" - every school may have some degree of bullying. We are fortunate that the incidence is infrequent at our school, but that is not to imply that we intend to minimise its effects on the victims and their families.

GUIDELINES

Strategies for Preventing Bullying Behaviour:

1. First and foremost by our school's ethos, visions and Christian Values.
2. Implementation of the S.E.A.L. (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) scheme of work which includes themes on 'relationships' and 'friendships'.
3. Directly through the curriculum e.g. discussing class friction or focusing on individual or group behaviour in an historical investigation.
4. Indirectly through classroom management e.g. promoting the process of collaborative groupwork using a focused curriculum task or problem solving.
5. Using Circle Time to raise self esteem, to promote collaborative problem solving and cooperative behaviour and challenge bullying behaviour.
6. Using the wider curriculum to raise issues relating to bullying behaviour in a variety of contexts, eg anti-Semitism, as appropriate to a child's age.
7. Include opportunities to reduce prejudice within the curriculum, eg using outside agencies to broaden understanding (SARI, Just Different).
8. Providing a safe and secure environment for children to minimise opportunities for bullying behaviour to take place.
9. The School Council will be able to raise issues of concern in relation to bullying behaviour which will be minuted and reported to the Head teacher for investigation.

Strategies for Responding to Bullying Behaviour:

1. If a child has been physically injured as a result of bullying behaviour parents of both children will be informed of the incident and action taken by the school. The child who has carried out

the bullying behaviour will be reprimanded by the Head teacher and his/her parents will be expected to support the school in monitoring the child's behaviour in the future. Should there be a recurrence of the incident and the aggressor's behaviour did not improve (following intervention by the school in the ways described below) then sanctions would be used with exclusion as a last resort.

2. Where an incident is deemed to be of a very serious nature (eg physical assault with a weapon, sexual assault, theft, coercing to commit a crime) the Head teacher will also contact the police for advice.
3. In the case of bullying behaviour taking the form of teasing or name calling then a reprimand will be given.
4. If it should happen that the child/ren involved in bullying others is/are reluctant to admit to their actions a class teacher would encourage an honest and direct discussion with the children concerned.
5. Where appropriate the focus would be on finding a solution to prevent the recurrence of further teasing/name calling etc. The adult would aim to find a solution to the personal disagreement and discuss how the various proposals suggested could be put into action. A follow up meeting would be held to check on progress.
6. Where an incident / incidents of bullying behaviour that have taken place off the school site (e.g. on a school trip or camp) the Head teacher will investigate and inform parents.
7. All incidents of bullying behaviour will be recorded by the Head teacher. Staff will follow up such incidents to monitor success of resolutions implemented.
8. Racial, homophobic and SEND related bullying behaviour will be reported to the Local Authority in line with LA requirements.
9. Support of external agencies will be sought where appropriate for the form of bullying behaviour, eg Specialist Behaviour Support Service, SARI.
10. Summary information about bullying behaviour will be reported to the Governing Body by the Headteacher annually.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Head teacher is responsible for monitoring implementation and the review of this policy. The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated against bullying incident data collated in school, such as: log of reported bullying incidents, exclusions resulting from bullying incidents, complaints raised against the school linked to handling of alleged bullying and comments from parent/carer questionnaires.

This policy was approved by the governors in September 2022

Review date: January 2024

Related policies: Pupil Behaviour, Equal Opportunities, Equality, Accessibility