



Great Marsden St John's Primary School

Church of England Academy

Our Vision

Our children will experience love, respect, faith and success as unique individuals within our school community and the wider world, now and in the future.

Our Mission

“We ask that Christ will live in our hearts through faith making us rooted and grounded in LOVE.”

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY FOR GREAT MARSDEN ST.JOHN'S PRIMARY (A Church of England Academy)

Statement of Intent

This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2021 and ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’ guidance.

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.

As a Church of England Academy we recognise that good behaviour for learning and life is strongly linked to good relationships and mutual respect. It is therefore important that all relationships with our pupils, and between each other, are based on a fundamental respect for the individual.

Our School values are thus:

- Loving God
- Loving Others
- Loving Ourselves
- Loving Learning
- Loving Life

We strongly believe that in living these values each and every day we will create a secure, caring and happy environment for every child and member of staff, where stimulating and creative learning can take place. Our ultimate goal is that all children will be able to self-regulate their behaviour choices because at the heart of effective learning is self-discipline. Pupils are taught to be responsible for their own behaviour and actions.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying can be defined as “behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally”. (DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures, dirty looks)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic/Trans phobic - because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality. At Great Marsden we understand that for some of our children these are real issues and we want to ensure that we are able to support the children and their families. Mrs Walsh, our Inclusion Manager, is a Stonewall Trainer. <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- The rapid development of, and widespread access to technology has provided a new medium for ‘virtual’ bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen twenty four hours a day with a potentially bigger audience and more accessibility as people forward on content at a click. Cyber-bullying is dealt with in the same way as other types of bullying at St. John’s. All areas of the internet, such as email & internet chat rooms, misuse of mobile threats by text messaging & calls, misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities, are dealt with proactively in line with our Internet Safety policy and protocols. At Great Marsden we have clear protocols surrounding the searching and deletion of data from electronic devices.

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 bullies need to learn different ways of behaving.

We believe we 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 – whether this is in or out of school. If an incident of bullying outside the school premises is reported to the school, it is important that it is investigated and appropriate action is taken. This will send a strong signal to pupils that bullying will not be tolerated and perpetrators will be held to account.

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 – who in most instances will be able to deal with the situation.
2. In cases of serious bullying, a member of the SLT will be informed who will become the lead professional to liaise with all parties concerned.
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly

If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted

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 the schools behaviour management procedures will be initiated (refer to our Behaviour Policy)
- 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.

Strategies for Preventing Bullying

As part of our on-going commitment to the safety and welfare of our pupils we at Great Marsden St. John's Primary – A Church of England Academy have developed the following strategies to promote positive behaviour and discourage bullying behaviour.

- Our Christian ethos is based upon the Christian value of LOVE – Loving God, Loving Others, Loving Ourselves, Loving Learning, Loving Life.
- Daily faith based worship where we use Jesus as the ultimate example of how to conduct ourselves
- Anti-Bullying weeks are held regularly and it is a key element in our 'Back to School' week at the beginning of each academic year.
- PSHE/citizenship
- Specific curriculum input on areas of concern such as Cyber bullying and internet safety (AUP)
- School Council – Pupil voice.
- Parent information events/information
- Staff training and development for all staff
- Nurturing support
- We signpost to organisations which can help and support all those involved.

National Bullying Helpline

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/about.html>

Helpline: 0300 323 0169

Telephone: 0845 225 5787

• Family Lives: www.familylives.org.uk

• Kidscape: www.kidscape.org.uk

Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities: www.cafamily.org.uk/media/750755/cyberbullying_and_send_-_module_final.pdf

• Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk

Report it: www.report-it.org.uk

Barnardo's LGBT Hub: www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/lgbtq.htm

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW)

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk

This policy is reviewed annually or before if deemed necessary.