



Anti-bullying policy

Our Christian Vision

Believe Achieve Respect Together Succeed

B – We **believe** we will flourish in God's family.

A – We know that everyone in St Bart's can **achieve**.

R – We **respect** everyone in our family.

T – **Together** we support and help each other.

S – As part of God's family we support everybody to **succeed**.

Safeguarding

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils. We believe all staff and visitors have an important and unique role to play in the protection of children.

Aims

To identify:

- What bullying is.
- The different types of bullying.
- What pupils should do if they have concerns.
- How incidents of bullying will be dealt with.
- The support that will be provided to all pupils.

Links to Legislation

There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011.
- The Equality Act 2010.
- The Children Act 1989.
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997.
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988.
- Public Order Act 1986.

Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- The headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a

member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.

- Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- All staff, including governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.
- Parents/guardians/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is the repetitive, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful.
- Repeated, often over a period of time.
- Difficult to defend against.

“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 17)

Bullying can include:

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Emotional	Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
Physical	Hitting, kicking, pushing, taking another’s belongings, any use of violence
Prejudice-based and discriminatory, including: • Racial • Faith-based • Gendered (sexist) • Homophobic/biphobic • Transphobic • Disability-based	Taunts, gestures, graffiti or physical abuse focused on a particular characteristic (e.g. gender, race, sexuality)
Sexual	Explicit sexual remarks, display of sexual material, sexual gestures, unwanted physical attention, comments about sexual reputation or performance, or inappropriate touching
Direct or indirect verbal	Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

TYPE OF BULLYING	DEFINITION
Cyber-bullying	Bullying that takes place online, such as through social networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites, devices or via images, audio, video, or written content generated by artificial intelligence (AI)

Bullying in any form will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely.

Preventing bullying

The whole school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (Child-on-Child Abuse).
- Openly discuss differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as: religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality, or pupils with different family situations (such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities).
- Challenge practice and language which does not uphold the values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media positively and responsibly.
- Work with staff, the wider community and outside agencies to prevent and tackle concerns including all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Train staff to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action following the school's policy and procedures (including recording and reporting incidents).
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, school council.
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building their resilience and self-esteem.

Reporting bullying

Pupils who have been bullied should report this to:

- Any member of staff.
- Their family.
- A school friend.

Pupils who witness bullying should report this to any of the above.

Members of staff who receive reports that a pupil has been bullied should report this to their phase leader or a member of the senior leadership team, or in the case of serious incidents directly to the headteacher.

If a parent/guardian/carers has concerns they must speak to the headteacher.

Responding to Bullying Concerns

The following steps will be taken when dealing with any incidents of bullying reported to the school:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.
- The DSL will be informed of all bullying concerns, especially where there may be safeguarding issues.
- The Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another member of the senior leadership team will interview all parties involved.
- If necessary, other agencies may be consulted or involved, such as the police (if a criminal offence has been committed).
- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/guardians/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentiality policies.
- Appropriate sanctions and support, for example as identified within the school behaviour policy and child protection policy, will be implemented in consultation with all parties concerned.

Cyberbullying

When responding to cyberbullying concerns, the school will:

- Act as soon as an incident has been reported or identified.
- Provide appropriate support for the person who has been cyberbullied, and work with the person who has carried out the bullying to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Encourage the person being bullied to keep any evidence (screenshots) of the bullying activity to assist any investigation.
- Take all available steps where possible to identify the person responsible. This may include:
 - Looking at the use of school systems.
 - Identifying and interviewing possible witnesses.
 - Contacting the service provider and the police, if necessary.
- Work with the individuals and online service providers to prevent the incident from spreading and assist in removing offensive or upsetting material from circulation. This may include:

- Support reports to a service provider to remove content if those involved are unable to be identified or if those involved refuse to or are unable to delete content.
- Confiscating and searching pupils' electronic devices, such as mobile phones, in accordance with the law and government guidance. (*We will access the DfE 'Searching, screening and confiscation at school' to ensure that the school's powers are used proportionately and lawfully*).
- Requesting the deletion of locally-held content and content posted online if they contravene school behavioural policies.
- Where an individual can be identified, the school will ensure that appropriate sanctions are implemented to change the attitude and behaviour of the bully, as well as ensuring access to any additional help or support they may need.
- Inform the police if a criminal offence has been committed.
- Provide information to staff and pupils regarding steps they can take to protect themselves online. This may include:
 - Advising those targeted not to retaliate or reply.
 - Providing advice on blocking or removing people from contact lists.
 - Helping those involved to consider and manage private information they may have in the public domain.

Recording incidents

Incidents of bullying will be logged on Trackit, including recording the details of what happened and actions.

Where bullying is of a racist nature, we will report this to the Local Authority.

Supporting pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing continuous support.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience.
- Working towards restoring self-esteem and confidence.
- Where necessary, working with parents/guardians/carers, other organisations and agencies.

Pupils who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change.
- Informing parents/carers to help change attitude and behaviour of the child.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- Sanctioning, in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Where necessary, working with parents/carers, other organisations and agencies.

Adults

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of adults, including staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents/guardians/carers or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher.
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to future concerns.
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools' behaviour and discipline policy.
- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

Adults who have perpetrated the bullying will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened with a senior member of staff and/or the headteacher to establish the concern.
- Establishing whether a legitimate grievance or concern has been raised and signposting to the school's official complaints procedures.
- If online, requesting that content be removed.
- Instigating disciplinary, civil or legal action as appropriate or required.

Involvement of Pupils

We will:

- Ensure pupils understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they play in preventing bullying.
- Regularly canvas pupils' views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

Involvement and liaison with Parents/guardians/carers

We will:

- Take steps to involve parents/guardians/carers in develop policies and procedures, to ensure they are aware that the school does not tolerate any form of bullying.
- Make sure that key information about prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/guardians/carers in a variety of formats, including via the school website.
- Ensure all parents/guardians/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying and where to access independent advice.
- Work with all parents/guardians/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents/guardians/carers work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.
- Ensure all parents/guardians/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively, to raise concerns in an appropriate manner.

Monitoring and Review: Putting Policy into Practice

- The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied.
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate.
- The school will report on a regular basis to the governing body on incidents of bullying, including outcomes.

Reviewed: July 2025

Review date: July 2027