



St. Kentigern's Catholic Primary School Anti-bullying Policy

Mission Statement

St. Kentigern's School is part of our parish community of faith, which helps our children to develop their spiritual, mental and physical abilities to their highest possible potential, by prayerfully basing their lives on the teachings and values of Jesus Christ and his Church, whilst recognising and respecting the beliefs of others.

We are committed to the development of the whole child within a community where every individual is valued and respected. Co-operation and friendship will encourage a happy and caring, learning environment.

The school motto is '*Treat others as you would like to be treated.*'

1 Introduction

1.1 Bullying is action repeatedly taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally. Bullying is **not** a one-off fight or argument, a friend being nasty or an argument with a friend.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

2.2 We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety.

2.3 This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

2.4 We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

3 The role of governors

3.1 The governing body supports the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

3.2 The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

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- 3.3** The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the headteacher and asks her to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

4 The role of the headteacher

- 4.1** It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying. The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.
- 4.2** The headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the headteacher may decide to use an assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished. Class circle times have been used effectively to make pupils aware of how being bullied might feel.
- 4.3** The headteacher ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.
- 4.4** The headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

5 The role of staff

- 5.1** Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place.
- 5.2** If staff witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the headteacher and the learning mentor, the teacher informs the child's parents. All instances and subsequent actions are documented on the school online safeguarding system.
- 5.3** If, as staff, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve support for the victim of the bullying by the learning mentor, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the headteacher and the special needs co-ordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the headteacher may contact external support agencies such as the behaviour support team, social care or the police.
- 5.4** Staff attend training as part of their continued professional development, which enables them to become equipped to deal with incidents of bullying and behaviour management.
- 5.5** Staff attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

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6 The role of parents

- 6.1** Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately.
- 6.2** Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.
- 6.3** Under no circumstances should the parent deal with the allegation themselves, ie by approaching the pupil causing concerns or their parent/s.

7 Monitoring and review

- 7.1** This policy is monitored by the headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

Signed: *C Murray*

Head teacher

Date: September 2023

Next Review: September 2025