

St. Matthew's C of E Primary School Policies

Our Policy: Anti-bullying

Approval Date: September 2025
Review Date: September 2026

St Matthew's Primary School Anti-bullying policy

St Matthew's Primary believes that all pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. We believe that all aspects of bullying behaviour must be addressed.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the **repeated** use of force, threat or coercion to abuse, intimidate, or aggressively impose domination over others.

OR

Bullying is **repeated** verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons.

Bullying is not a one off incident but persistence and repeated actions over time.

Bullying can occur through several types of anti-social behaviour.

It can be:

- **PHYSICAL** – A child can be physically punched, kicked, hit, spat at.
- **VERBAL** – a child can be called names. It may be directed towards gender, ethnic origin, religion, physical / social disability, family or personality.
- **EXCLUSION** – A child can be bullied by being excluded from discussions/activities with those they believe to be their friends.
- **DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR THEFT** – pupils may have their property damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used by the bully in order that the pupil hands over property to them.
- **CYBER BULLYING** – Pupils may receive threats or verbal abuse through the use of information and communication technologies, e.g. social network sites, mobile phones.

What we do at St Matthew's to minimise bullying:

- We use appropriate opportunities to discuss aspects of bullying and the right way to behave towards each other, e.g. through PSHCE, assemblies.
- We promote our Mission Statement through our Code of Conduct.
- We encourage pupils to treat everyone with respect.
- Playtimes are well supervised by members of staff.
- A senior member of staff is always available at lunchtimes.
- Pupils can approach and talk to any member of staff if they are worried.
- We deal quickly, firmly and fairly with any complaints, involving parents where necessary.
- We treat bullying as a serious offence, listening to each case.

Action to be taken when bullying is suspected. If bullying is suspected or reported, we talk to the individuals involved. If any degree of bullying is identified, the following action is taken:

- Appropriate support will be given to the victim
- Appropriate support will be given to the bully
- The bully will be officially warned to stop offending
- Parents/guardians of both parties will be informed
- Persistent offending may result in the bully being excluded from lunchtimes at school
- Continued persistent offending may result in exclusion from school, and the governing body being informed.

How can you help yourself?

- Tell yourself that you do not deserve to be bullied and that it is wrong.
- Be proud of who you are.
- Try not to show the bully that you are upset; a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- Stay with a group of people.
- Go straight to a member of staff. You will receive immediate support.
- Don't fight back; it makes things worse.

Teachers will take you seriously and will deal with the bully in a way which will make you feel safe again.

ADVICE FOR PARENTS

How can you help your child?

- If you are concerned for your child, inform the school immediately. You should speak to their class teacher in the first instance.
- Encourage your child to speak to a member of staff any time they feel threatened.
- Advise your child not to retaliate; it will make things worse.
- Reassure your child that the school is doing everything to make them safe.
- Encourage your child to ask for help at any time.

Your complaint/ worry will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.

Date of Policy:	September 2025
Date agreed by Governors:	September 2025
Next Review Date:	September 2026