

St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy

**LOVE JESUS
LOVE LEARNING
LOVE EACH OTHER**

"We are a learning community promoting the Gospel values of mutual trust, care and respect."

As a school we ensure that all children and staff are treated fairly and equally. All children have equal rights to access all areas of the curriculum, regardless of race, gender and disability. Within this subject area, the SMT and all staff endeavour to provide the appropriate provision for this to occur. This policy follows the guidelines and practices that are stated and outlined in St. Oswald's Equality Scheme.

AIMS OF THIS POLICY

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is
- All governors, 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.

DEFINITION OF BULLYING

The Anti-Bullying Alliance definition of bullying is:

The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

It can happen face-to-face or in cyberspace.

THE SCHOOLS APPROACH TO BULLYING

Bullying whether verbal, physical or psychological will not be tolerated in this school. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent it happening and with this in mind the governors have laid down the following guidelines.

TYPES OF BULLYING

Bullying can be:-

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse
- Mobile threats by text messaging & calls
- Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera & video facilities

HOW WE WORK TO TRY AND PREVENT BULLYING

At St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School we use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying through class assemblies, Circle Time, or during lessons that have a PSHE/Citizenship focus. The ethos and working philosophy of St. Oswald's means that all staff actively encourage children to have respect for each other and for other people's property. Good and kind/polite behaviour is regularly acknowledged and rewarded through the use of the behaviour book and house tokens.

Children are involved in the prevention of bullying as and when appropriate, these include:

- Our School codes of conduct and mission statement
- Writing a set of school or class rules

- Signing a home/ school agreement
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role-plays about what to do through scenarios of bullying
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters that bullies are dealt with quickly
- Taking part in the yearly anti-bullying week
- Using the SEAL materials
- Using the SUMO materials

WHAT HAPPENS IF BULLYING IS DISCOVERED AT OUR SCHOOL?

The school will react firmly and promptly where bullying is identified. There are a range of sanctions available to the staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation.

Some of these include:

- Discussions with parents and children
- Referral to senior staff
- Withdrawal of favoured activities
- Exclusion from school during lunch time
- Exclusion from school.

The School will:

- Support children who are being bullied
- Help bullies to change their behaviour
- Take bullying seriously and find out the facts of the incident
- Meet those concerned individually

- Use peer group pressure to actively discourage bullying
- Break up bully groups where it seems necessary
- Involve parents at an early stage
- Help children develop positive strategies and assertion
- Be equally concerned about bullying to and from school
- Record incidents of bullying in a consistent way that allows for monitoring of behaviour if needed record using the sentinel system
- Discuss with and involve children in agreed class and school rules and behaviour
- Request help from SEND. Support services and Education Psychologist where necessary
- Involve the police where necessary

PASTORAL ADVICE

It is everyone's responsibility to prevent bullying, here are some things you could do.

PARENTS

It is always a good idea to take an active interest in your child's social life and chat about friends and their activities in and out of school. As well as keeping up to date with your child's friendships you may well learn of disagreements or difficulties. Watch for signs of distress in your child/children. There could be an unwillingness to attend school, headaches, stomach aches etc. There are many reasons why your child may be unsettled at school, bullying is always a possibility.

If you think the child is being bullied, inform the school immediately and ask for an interview with the member of staff who should deal with the incident. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, request an interview with the Head Teacher. If you are still dissatisfied, speak to a Governor about your problem. Remember, it is everyone's responsibility and allow the school time to investigate the problems. All reports will be investigated urgently.

CHILDREN

If you are being bullied:

- You shouldn't feel ashamed about being bullied. It's not your fault but it is important that you get help. No one deserves to be bullied.
- Who can you talk to about what is going on?
- Do you have a teacher, friend or someone in your family you trust? Talk to them about what's happening and how it makes you feel. They might be able to help you to work out what you want to do next.
- Write down what has been happening and when and where it has happened. If it helps, draw a picture or write a song or poem about what is happening and how it makes you feel.
- It's important to feel safe. Can you protect yourself from the bullies? Would it help to walk home with friends instead of on your own, or to ask someone to stay with you?
- Remember, you don't have to put up with being bullied.

You can stop bullying by:

- Don't stand and watch - fetch help.
- Show that you and your friends disapprove
- Show sympathy and support to children who may be bullied
- Be careful about teasing and personal remarks - imagine how you might feel.
- If you know of serious bullying, tell a trusted adult. It's not telling tales, the victim may be too scared or lonely to tell.

This anti-bullying policy should be read in conjunction with the R.E. Policy, ICT Policy and Child Protection Policy.