



ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING AND HATE POLICY (INCORPORATING CYBERBULLYING)

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share the same commitment. We follow Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership. For more information go to <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/>

This policy must be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Incorporating Child Protection Policy and the Equal Opportunities Policy.

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The Aims of This Policy

- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what bullying & cyberbullying is, know how it can be combated and know that the policy is here to protect them.
- To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of bullying and cyberbullying.
- To ensure that reported incidents of bullying and cyberbullying are dealt with effectively and quickly and monitored regularly.
- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyberbullying is and how it can be combated.
- To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyberbullying.
- To ensure that reported incidents of cyberbullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

What is bullying?

‘A person is bullied when he or she is exposed regularly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons’. Olweus 1987

At St. Peter’s Catholic Primary School, we define bullying as persistent and repetitive behaviour over time, which is offensive, intimidating, or malicious and intentionally hurts another individual wither physically or emotionally.

Bullying is different from random acts of aggression. Bullying is any behaviour which deliberately makes another person feel uncomfortable, distressed, humiliated, threatened or vulnerable. Bullying makes those being bullied feel powerless to defend themselves. It undermines the recipient’s self-confidence, causing distress and a sense of injustice.

Bullying can take many forms:

- Emotional (ignoring and excluding someone from social groups, tormenting, humiliating, ridiculing, demanding money or goods with threatening behaviour);
- Verbal (name calling, sarcasm, gossiping, spreading rumours, teasing, swearing at someone, belittling someone, racist remarks, homophobic language);
- Physical (any unnecessary physical contact - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence – as well as taking and damaging property);
- Cyber (harassment through all areas of internet, email, instant messaging, texting and internet chat room misuse – see [CYBERBULLYING](#) section);
- Racial (racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, physical violence);
- Sexual (unwanted physical contact, unwelcome comments of a sexual nature);
- Homophobic (name calling or comments because of, or focusing on, the issue of sexuality, physical violence).

The final two forms of bullying are extremely rare in a primary school setting.

Where can bullying happen?

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School recognise that bullying can happen ANYWHERE – in the classroom, on the playground, in corridors, near toilets, in cloakroom areas, or on the way to and from school. As part of St. Peter's Catholic Primary School's commitment to safeguarding and ensuring that every child feels safe no matter where they are in school we conduct a survey each year to see if we can make any areas safer and thus minimise bullying opportunities. This forms part of the school's Action Plan.

Why are we against bullying?

'Every Child Matters'because:

- Everyone has the right to feel welcome, safe, secure and happy;
- Everybody has the right to be treated with consideration and respect.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying.

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School we have an ethos where children know that:

- It is important to tell someone;
- If bullying happens it will be dealt with quickly and effectively,
- Bullies need to be taught different ways of behaving.

What are the signs and symptoms of bullying?

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School we recognise that anyone can be bullied. The symptoms of being bullied can manifest themselves in many different ways. Everyone should be aware of these possible signs and should investigate if the child;

- Is frightened of walking to or from school, changes route or doesn't want to go on the school bus;
- Is unwilling to go to school / begins to truant;
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious, shy or lacking in confidence;
- Becomes aggressive, abusive, disruptive or unreasonable;
- Starts stammering;
- Threatens or attempts to hurt themselves or run away;
- Cries themselves to sleep at night, has nightmares or starts to wet the bed;
- Feels ill in the morning;
- Comes home 'starving';
- Bullies others;
- Comes home with clothes torn, property damaged or 'missing';
- Asks for money or starts stealing money;

- Has unexplained cuts or bruises;
- Changes their eating habits;
- Is frightened to say what is wrong;
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone;
- Is nervous or jumpy when a cyber message is received;
- Gives improbable excuses for their behaviour;
- Shows a decline in academic performance at school

How do we prevent Bullying?

All members of St. Peter's Catholic Primary School's community should foster a clear understanding that bullying, in any form, is not acceptable. This will be done by:

- Promoting the Core Values that Jesus wishes us to live our lives by;
- Following the school's behaviour policy and sanctions;
- Creating a positive atmosphere where children, teachers, all staff and parents care for each other's feelings and are sensitive to the needs of others;
- Raising whole school awareness of bullying through anti-bullying week assemblies, workshops, theatre groups and class based follow-up sessions so that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties;
- Raising whole school awareness of bullying through curriculum opportunities that develop empathy and emotional intelligence;
- Treating any bullying incidents seriously and immediately;
- Proving support for children so that they know what they can do if they are being bullied, e.g. a school anti-bullying poster, designed by the School Council, to be displayed around the school.
- Regularly canvas pupils' views on the extent and nature of bullying.

Parent Partnership

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School we believe that the partnership between home and school is vital in tackling bullying. We recognise that if your child has the perception that they are being bullied then we need to act on your behalf by investigating any reports of bullying in school. Please approach school so that we can deal with the issue. If you are concerned that your child is being bullied:

- Stay calm. Let your child talk to you and reassure them that the problem will be dealt with.
- Discuss whether the event was a one off act;
- Keep a sense of proportion about the problem. If you are very distressed and angry this will be alarming for your child;

- Speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible [including about one off incidents as these can be dealt with if we know about them and may prevent the problem escalating];
- Avoid speaking directly to the perpetrator or their parents: this can make the situation worse.

When parents/carers report to the Class Teacher that they feel their child is being bullied, the school's anti-bullying policy will be discussed with the parents and a conversation will take place to ascertain whether or not it is a case of bullying, or a one-off act of aggression. The next steps will be explained to the parents/carers.

What we will do when any incidents of bullying are reported

At St. Peter's Catholic Primary School we recognise that despite effective measures incidents of bullying do occasionally occur. When this happens we would ascertain the facts about the incident by listening to both parties. This may be with both parties present, if the victim is happy to do this, or separately. If the incident was a one off act of aggression, the perpetrator will be sanctioned in line with our school behaviour policy. The victim's parents will be kept informed. The perpetrator's parents will also be informed, as per our school behaviour policy.

If bullying has taken place the following will happen:

- The Class Teacher or Head Teacher will record the incident on the school's Bullying Incident Form;
- This information will be shared with the Head Teacher and Pastoral Leader
- Perpetrators will receive a sanction in accordance with our behaviour policy. The perpetrator's parents/carers will be informed. For serious or repeated incidents, a different or extended sanction may be applied through discussion with the Head Teacher or the Deputy Head Teacher.
- Support will be offered to the victim through our Pastoral Support Worker or other trusted adult;
- The Pastoral Support Worker will work with the perpetrator to ensure that they understand why their behaviour is wrong and must not be repeated;
- The victim's parents will be kept informed by the Class Teacher or Head Teacher.

All staff at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child has a happy time here. We endeavour to resolve problems as quickly as possible. We also try to be open and honest with the parent community. However, because of confidentiality, we may not always be able to share all our actions and interventions with you.

Please be assured that we recognise that bullying is a big concern for parents and we work hard to prevent it.

The School Council makes a School Anti-Bullying poster every two years and shares the poster with the school community [teachers, pupils, parents and carers] during a school assembly.

Monitoring

The Head and the Senior Leadership Team will consider reports of bullying to determine what can be learned from the incidents and how they were handled, with a view to improving the school's strategies. These reports, shared with the governing body, will also enable patterns to be identified.

Anti-Cyberbullying

The Children's and Young People Plan aims to ensure that children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination under the Stay Safe Every Child Matters Agenda. This school is committed to teaching children the knowledge and skills to be able to use ICT effectively, safely and responsibly.

Understanding cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and/or the internet) to abuse another person. It can take place anywhere and involve many people. Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff. It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.

Procedures to Prevent Cyberbullying

- Staff, pupils, parents and governors to be made aware of issues surrounding cyberbullying. It is illegal for any child under the age of 13 to be using Facebook. Therefore, we can expect that no child of Primary age will be using this network facility.
- Pupils will learn about cyberbullying through PSHE, assemblies, anti-bullying week activities and other curriculum projects.
- Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract.
- Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyberbullying
- Parents will be expected to sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract and to discuss its meaning with their children.
- Staff CPD will assist in learning about current technologies
- Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and school procedure.

Useful websites:

www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart

www.respectme.org.uk/cyberbullying

www.childnet.int.org

www.ant-bullyingalliance.org

www.antibullying.net

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying

www.chatdanger.com

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.childline.org.uk

www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying

www.kidscape.org.uk

Support Agencies

- **Anti-bullying Alliance.** The alliance brings together over 60 organisations into one network with the aim of reducing bullying. Their website has a parent section with links to recommended organisations who can help with bullying issues www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- **Kidscape.** Bullying advice, helpline, information, anti-bullying resources and training. www.kidscape.org.uk
- **Childline.** Advice and stories from children who have survived bullying. www.childline.org.uk
- **Bullying on line.** Bullying advice, helpline, information, anti-bullying resources and training. www.bullying.co.uk
- **Parentline Plus.** Advice and links for parents. www.parentlineplus.org.uk Tel: 0808 800 2222
- **Parents Against Bullying.** Advice and links for parents. www.parentsagainstbullying.com Tel: 01928 57615