



St Mary's CE Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy

Rationale

All the activities in St Mary's School, including its Breakfast and After School Clubs, are carried out in the Christian spirit and should promote the school values of Faith, Family and Future – Building a positive future for all as part of God's loving family.

St Mary's is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School which prides itself in providing equal opportunities for all members of its family regardless of SEND, religion, sexual orientation, culture, gender, ethnic origin, colour or age. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Teaching, Learning, Curriculum and Assessment Policy, Behaviour and Relationships Policy, Marking and Feedback Policy and Early Reading and Phonics Policy.

We make it clear that bullying is anti-social and contrary to our ethos. It is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

We feel that it is important for pupils and parents/guardians to know that any bullying complaints will be dealt with firmly, fairly and promptly. All incidents of bullying are reported to the Full Governing Body.

Recognising bullying

Bullying can be defined as 'behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally' DfE 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying'. Bullying is recognised as being a form of child on child abuse.

The main types of bullying are:

- Emotional- being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Racial - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexist - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Sexual orientation - cause of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Virtual/Online/Cyber-bullying - use of email, texts, social media

It is not bullying when:

- there is no intention to hurt or harm i.e. behaviour is thoughtless or accidental;
- pupils are misbehaving/responding/reacting to one another in retaliation. Although this is not bullying, the misbehaviour is serious and will be dealt with in school.
- there is a good reason why others cannot be included in a group activity;
- there is a one off fight/argument between pupils of equal stature or strength;
- a pupil is called a nickname with which she/he is happy.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to understand the effect of their behaviour and learn different ways of behaving. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

If bullying, or cyber-bullying does occur, all pupils should feel empowered to report it and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Aims and objectives of the Anti-bullying policy

- All Governors, staff, parents and children should understand what bullying is.
- All Governors and staff should know what the school's Anti-Bullying Policy is and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should be aware of the procedures to follow in the School's Anti-bullying policy.
- As a school we take bullying very seriously. Pupils and parents know that they will be fully supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated. It is our responsibility to ensure that when it occurs any allegation of bullying is dealt with in line with this policy.

Involvement of parents/carers

We encourage parents to let us know if they think that their child is being bullied at school. If bullying is taking place, we liaise with parents and discuss measures to solve the problem. The aim of the meetings is to minimise the likelihood of further bullying taking place from the perspective of the child who has bullied and the victim and to find a resolution.

We will ensure that:

- Parents are clear about the problem-solving focus.
- Parents' right to express their opinion is respected and they have an opportunity to have their say.
- The meeting is purposeful and ends on a positive note.

Prevention of bullying incidents at school

There are many opportunities for children to develop their understanding of bullying and share their experiences, which is a strong preventative measure for bullying and cyber-bullying.

Our Christian values are central to the ethos of our school, especially those of: community, friendship, forgiveness, truth, courage and thankfulness. Through collective worship and whole school assemblies we promote positive behaviours and actions and remind children of the choices they have.

We ensure that all children are aware of the behaviour classed as bullying and this is updated frequently through assemblies, R.E. and P.S.H.E. integrated within the curriculum.

Each class regularly review their Class Charter and discuss the School Charter (created by our Values Ambassadors). In addition, we hold an anti-bullying focus week each year, (National Anti-Bullying Week)

Children are encouraged to 'tell' if they are being bullied. Children are reminded that they can come and talk to any adult they trust in school and we have 'Worry Boxes' in school for children who don't feel that they can speak to someone.

Through the computing curriculum, cyber bullying and e-safety are topics which are addressed regularly throughout the year at age appropriate levels.

If there is an allegation of bullying:

- A secure environment is provided in which incidents can be reported confidently.
- The bullying behaviour is investigated and every effort will be made to stop the bullying quickly
- Incidents will be reported to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as well as keeping parents and guardians informed.
- A log is kept of bullying incidents including the date of the incident/s and the response
- The pupil who has been bullied is made to feel safe and treated in a respectful manner
- All pupils are made aware/shown that bullying is taken seriously.
- The school will protect and support all parties involved.
- The child/children displaying the bullying behaviour will receive support to change their behaviour from Teachers, Teaching Assistants and ELSA support if necessary (Please refer to behaviour policy for rewards and sanctions)
- All incidents will be followed up and monitored.
- If bullying incidents occur which involve criminal activity, they will be reported on to the appropriate authorities i.e. the Police
- Bullying incidents are reported to the Full Governing Body

Staff support and training

The school will ensure that all staff receive training on the implementation of this policy.

New staff induction will include policy awareness.

Staff will discuss incidents and share relevant information ensuring that, as a small school, all staff are aware of potential problems.

Planning, teaching and assessment of PSHE topics with bullying themes are shared and discussed as part of the curriculum.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy was adopted by: St Mary's C.E. Primary School, Davyhulme	Date: February 2025
To be reviewed: February 2026	Signed:

Links to other policies

This Anti-bullying Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: •

- Behaviour and Relationships
- Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- SEN and Inclusion
- Safeguarding
- Complaints
- Computing Acceptable Use Policy (Teachers and Children)

Further support

Anti-Bullying Alliance – www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
Kidscape – www.kidscape.org.uk
Cyberbullying.org – www.cyberbullying.org
National Helpline - <https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/>
Childline – 0800 1111