

St Antony's Catholic Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy

*Learning together
in
God's love*

Agreed by staff: Autumn 2014
Agreed by governors: Autumn 2014
Review date: Autumn 2016

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

Our Mission Statement

At St. Antony's Catholic School we celebrate our special talents as children of God:

- We try to be like Jesus and always keep him in our hearts.
- We work together in our homes, school and parish to share our gifts and learn together.
- We understand that we are all different but we respect each other.
- We look after our world so that we may share it together in peace.

Aims of this Policy

- We aim to create an environment in St. Antony's School where it is a basic right of all children to receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. We accept that it is the basic right of all pupils and staff to be free from any kind of bullying within the school or outside.
- To enable bullying to be dealt with and managed in a fair and equal manner throughout the school.
- To inform staff, parents, pupils and governors of the set procedures in dealing with bullying throughout the school.
- To allow a whole school approach to tackling bullying in order for effective teaching and learning to take place.

Defining Bullying

Bullying is a sustained application of pressure that can come in the form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse which may be applied by one or a group of individuals upon another person.

(The school does not consider bullying to be an isolated incident or a falling out.)

- **Verbal bullying** may include name-calling, making derogatory remarks about the person or things associated with the person and racist comments.
- **Physical bullying** can range from physical attacks to the person to just **persistent** gentle uninvited taps and touches. It can also include physical damage to the victim's property.
- **Emotional bullying** can include excluding the victim **consistently** from working and playing within peer groups. It can include the **persistent** putting down of someone in front of others to make that person feel worthless and the perpetrator feels dominant and powerful.
- Bullying can be intentional and unintentional. Bullying can result in the victim doing things they would not want to normally do. Bullying can also come in the form of graffiti, offensive noises and gesturing, aggressive posturing and offensive language, through the use of mobile phones and other communications including cyber bullying.

Bullying in relation to our Catholic Ethos

Christ calls upon all of us to-

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Mark 12: 31-32).

As people we are all made in the image of God-

'God created human beings, making them to be like himself.' (Genesis 1: 27-28).

It is by these words that we have a duty to respect one another as people of God and that bullying has no place within a Catholic School. The bullying of an individual prevents the school achieving its mission statement fully unless it is dealt with in an effective Christian manner where the cause of the victim is dealt with completely and sympathetically.

Preventing Bullying through the Curriculum

Issues of bullying are exposed and worked through the curriculum. There is a particular focus to deal with issues of bullying in RE, PSHE, Citizenship and consistently through whole school and class assemblies.

In RE we teach the children to respect and love all of God's creation and to value every person. We learn to understand that all people are unique and different and that these differences are to be valued and understood. Through RE we learn to Recognise, Respect, Relate, Remember and Rejoice in each of our own and each other's creation.

In PSHE issues relating to learning about bullying are covered by the topics of citizenship, relationships, emotional health and safety. The School Council may also cover it when looking at creating a more positive school environment.

In Assemblies bullying can be covered as a theme through SEAL, drama, stories and tackling different social interests.

Strategies to Prevent Bullying

Procedures to deal with bullying:

- Bullying should be dealt with sympathetically and effectively without causing further distress to the victim.
- Children are encouraged to report any bullying incident immediately, whether to themselves or to another child, to a member of staff.
- All members of staff will ensure that the incident is investigated by recording and reporting the incident to the Learning Mentor (Mrs. Hamilton).
- The Learning Mentor will fully investigate the allegation, taking steps in line with the Behaviour Policy.
- For more persistent and serious bullying a written report needs to be submitted to the Headteacher, in order for the situation to be monitored and taken further if necessary.
- Incidents of proven bullying shall be reported by the Learning Mentor to the Headteacher.
- Both the perpetrators and victim's parents will be kept informed of the bullying and any sanctions or other consequences.

Eliminating Bullying

The pupils who carry out the bullying will be provided with additional support to eliminate the anti-social act of bullying. This will take place through counselling, support from the Learning Mentor, Circle time, Anger management strategies, SEAL programme, Behaviour books and charts.

The victims may also be supported through the SENCO and Learning Mentor with Counselling, Circle time and Self Esteem Groups.

Challenging Children

We have to acknowledge that as a school we have children with extremely challenging needs:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Learning
- Behavioural
- Social

Children whose behaviour not only impinges on themselves but on the school as a whole. These children can prevent effective teaching and learning. They can also be disruptive and cause breakdown in relationships within a classroom. They can also affect health and safety of other children and staff and themselves e.g. leaving class without permission, throwing furniture around. Newham LA has an inclusion policy.

These children will be registered with the SENCO and appropriate action and support will be provided in line with the SEN policy.

The health and safety of all children will always take precedent when making any decision about appropriate action.

The Role of the Parent

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 the class teacher/Learning Mentor immediately.

Parents have a responsibility to support the schools anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

Systems of Support

To manage bullying

- Circle time (PSHE, Class Council Sessions)
- Anger management sessions (Learning Mentor, SENCO, Counsellor)
- Self Esteem Groups
- Behaviour Support Development Advisory Team (BSDAT)
- SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme
- Community Links

- Catholic Children's Society
- Pastoral support from Parish Priest /Parish Sister

To support Victims

- Circle time (PSHE, Class Council Sessions)
- Counselling (In school counsellor –Learning Mentor)
- Self –esteem building (SENCO, Learning Mentor)
- Social group building (SENCO, Learning Mentor)
- Catholic Children's Society

If Bullying Re-occurs

All incidents and allegations will be investigated and recorded. Meetings will be arranged between the Teacher, Learning Mentor, SENCo and when necessary the Headteacher with the perpetrators parents to work out strategies to address the problem. Meetings may also be arranged with the victim's parents to inform them of how we are dealing with the issues and to give possible support and strategies to deal with the bullying.

If there is no improvement:

Children who continue to bully may be given the following sanctions, in line with the school behaviour policy.

- Exclusion from the playground at playtimes and lunchtime.
- Removed from class and placed within a different one.
- Withdrawal of privileges such as trips or representing the school.
- Temporary school exclusion
- Permanent exclusion.

Some incidences may need to be reported to other agencies such as Social Services or the police. Parents will always be advised of the action the school takes.

Appendices

1 Anti-Bullying Statement for Parents

2Anti-Bullying Statement for Pupils

Anti-Bullying Policy Information for Parents

Christ calls upon all of us to –

“Love your neighbour as you love yourself” (Mark 12:31-32)
“God created human beings, making them to be like himself” (Genesis 1:27-28)

We believe at St. Antony’s Catholic Primary School that it is the basic right of all children to receive their education free from any kind of bullying, both within and outside of the school.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is a sustained application of pressure that can come in the form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse which may be applied by one or a group of individuals upon another person.

- Verbal bullying may include name-calling, making derogatory remarks about the person or things associated with the person and racist comments.
- Physical bullying can range from physical attacks to the person to just persistent gentle uninvited taps and touches. It can also include physical damage to the victim’s property.
- Emotional bullying can include excluding the victim consistently from working and playing within peer groups. It can include the persistent putting down of someone in front of others to make that person feel worthless and the perpetrator feel dominant and powerful.

Bullying can be intentional and unintentional. Bullying can result in the victim doing things they would not want to normally do. Bullying can also come in the form of graffiti, cyber abuse, offensive noises and gesturing, aggressive posturing and offensive language.

Procedures to deal with bullying

Bullying should be dealt with sympathetically and effectively without causing further distress to the victim.

Children are to be encouraged to report any bullying incident, whether to themselves or to another child, to a member of staff.

All members of staff will ensure that the incident is investigated, either by them or through their line management.

Incidents of proven bullying shall be recorded by the school, and action will be taken in line with the school behaviour policy, either by the class teacher or by Assistant Headteacher and referred to the Headteacher if deemed necessary.

If bullying is found to be occurring then it must be dealt with in line with the school’s Behaviour Policy where the sanctions are clearly defined.

What will happen to people who bully?

1. The perpetrators maybe required to make an apology to the victim if it is suitable.
2. Both the perpetrators and victim’s parents will be informed of the bullying and any sanctions or other consequences.
3. They may miss their playtime.
4. Exclusion from the playground at playtimes and lunchtime.
5. Removed from class and placed within a different one.
6. Withdrawal of other privileges such as trips or representing the school in any competition.
7. Temporary school exclusion
8. Permanent exclusion.
9. External agencies are informed e.g. social services, police.

Not to act is to condone the bullying.

Children's Anti Bullying Statement

Jesus said "Love one another as I loved you"
We are all brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Our **Mission Statement** is:

- *We celebrate our special talents as children of God:*
- *We try to be like Jesus and always keep him in our hearts.*
- *We work together in our homes, school and parish to share our gifts and learn together.*
- *We understand that we are all different but we respect each other.*
- *We look after our world so that we may share it together in peace.*

The pupils, parents and the staff of St. Antony's Catholic School want a happy and safe place where children can learn in peace without fear, free from bullying.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone **ALWAYS** does one or more of these things to you:

- Calling you unkind names.
- Making insulting comments to you.
- Making racist comments to you.
- Keep on touching you when you do not want them to.
- Damaging your property.
- Not ever letting you play in the group games or working in a class group.
- Deliberately embarrassing you in front of others.
- Always saying things against you and your family.
- Sending you rude or unkind messages by phone or Internet

What to do if you are being bullied?

- Tell an adult.
- You can tell your teacher or any other adult in your class. You can tell them privately. If you feel the problem has not stopped tell the adult again. If you feel the adult has not solved it fully then tell another adult. You can speak to Mrs Moore or Mrs McDonagh or Mrs Clunis if you have any worries.

What will happen to people who bully?

- They will need to say sorry.
- They may miss their playtime.
- They might have to work in a different class.
- They may have to be taken off the playground.
- Their parents may be told by a letter or by telephone.
- They may not be able to go on school trips.
- They might be excluded from after school clubs.
- They could be sent to Mrs Moore.
- They might be put on a daily report book.

Bullying is wrong and must not happen.