

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Trust



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'
(Oscar Romero)

Policy for Preventing Bullying

Bullying is a very malicious form of anti-social behaviour and can be very damaging to children. It is therefore our policy that NO ACT OF BULLYING WILL BE TOLERATED IN OUR SCHOOL AND ALL REPORTS OF SUCH BEHAVIOUR WILL BE INVESTIGATED.

We can define Bullying as:

The deliberately desire by an individual or a group to hurt another person, physically or psychologically, over a period of time or through one incident, when that person is unable to defend her or himself.

Bullying can take different forms:

- Physical
- Verbal, e.g. name-calling, teasing, spreading malicious rumours, racist and sexist remarks
- Gesture. This can be frightening as the threat of physical violence is implied
- Extortion. Children can be intimidated to the extent they will hand over money, sweets, toys etc
- Exclusion from friendship groups. This can seriously undermine a child's self-esteem.
- Cyber – any of the above sent through social media, computers or mobile devices.

We aim to keep bullying to the minimum by ensuring we have:

- Clear administrative and organisational procedures that involves children in the decision making through the curriculum
- Create a supportive, listening ethos for the school and strong links with parents, carers, governors and the community.

Although our emphasis is on building the confidence of our children to behave in a supportive non-aggressive way, we recognise the need to have clear guidelines on how we will support any child who might be bullied, and also the bully.

We will do this by:

- Encouraging an 'it's OK to tell' policy
- Letting the children know to whom they can go for help
- Listening to parents and carers, very often children will tell their parents/carers when they are being bullied.
- Being vigilant and using different strategies to keep all children safe from this unacceptable behaviour
- Teaching children about ways to keep themselves safe online
- Offering unreserved support to any child who has experienced bullying
- Pre-empting any bullying, racist or sexist incidents through our policy of equal opportunities that values all our children whatever their gender,

class, language, religion, ability, disability, level of achievement, ethnic or cultural background

- Approaching such issues through the curriculum, R.E., assemblies, circle time, role-play.
- Having clear school and classroom rules, agreed by parents, children, governors, staff and other concerned groups in the community.

Procedure for dealing with an accusation of bullying

- All pupils involved will be asked to give their account of the incident. Confidences should not be broken
- If there is substance in the allegation then the incidents will be documented and the parents/carers informed, the matter will be discussed fully and some agreement reached as to how the children's needs can best be met, the bullied and the bully.
- All involved staff will be kept informed and asked to monitor and report any further incidents.

If bullying persists, certain sanctions will be put into place:

- Playtimes will be lost
- Time-out from classrooms
- Parents/carers will be advised that their child's needs to be at home for lunchtimes
- Home/school contracts.

Whilst every effort will be made to manage the behaviour in our school in the ways outlined above, if any child still finds it difficult to respond to this help, then the school and its governors would have to consider excluding the child from school.

We recognise the right of every child to learn but also that no child has the right to prevent the learning of others. If a child is being bullied, he or she will be very unhappy. An unhappy child is unlikely to learn to the best of his or her ability. This applies to the bully too.

Disability Equality

At St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all of our pupils whatever their needs or abilities.

Pupils have Special Educational Needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Pupils with a disability have special educational needs if they have any difficulty in accessing education and if they need any special educational provision to be made for them, which is anything that is additional to or different from what is normally available in schools in the area.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools Trust, we undertake the duties, including in relation to this policy:

- Not to treat disabled pupils less favourably for a reason which relates to their disability
- To take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage
- To do our best by all disabled members of our school community in relation to the requirements of this particular policy.