



# St. George's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

## Anti-Bullying Policy

At St. George's Catholic Primary School we encourage each child to recognise their own value both as an individual and as part of the school family. We expect and encourage a high standard of positive behaviour in relationships with other pupils, staff, parents and visitors.

We aim to enable every individual, made in the image and likeness of God, to learn, grow and reach their full potential.

We aim to be a loving Christian family living the values of the Gospel... developing caring relationships with the local and wider community

(School Mission Statement aims)

***To learn with kindness, respect and friendship through God's love.***

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

We are a 'TELLING' school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

Within the St. George's community, the children in our care are at the heart of everything we do. Every pupil is recognised as a unique individual, with their differences celebrated, developing a sense of self and belonging. Our aim is for EVERY child to start their secondary journey knowing God's kindness and love and being able to show God's love to others.

We believe that all children are unique and must be encouraged to develop talents and be celebrated for the special gifts that they possess. Each day, we encourage our children to work hard, have a positive mind-set, have the confidence to make mistakes, persevere and not give up. The St. George's child is a happy child ready to take the next steps in their education journey. Bullying stops a child from being happy and so we will do all in our power to eradicate it.

## **WHAT IS BULLYING?**

Bullying is the continued and persistent use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

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

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPONDING TO BULLYING**

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect at all times. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving or responding to events and situations.

We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying and aim to do so swiftly and resolve it at the earliest opportunity.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY**

- All Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents/carers should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know and understand the school this policy, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know and understand the school policy 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; there is zero tolerance at St George's and pupils know it will not be tolerated at any level.

## **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

A child may indicate by signs or behaviours that s/he is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school
- begins to have increased time off
- becomes withdrawn, anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away from home/school
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- continually feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work or work deteriorates
- may have clothes torn or damaged books / belongings
- has possessions which " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money – possibly to give a bully
- has dinner monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home hungry more than usual (lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable – changeable
- starts bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of these aspects above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous and jumpy when a text message is received

These signs and behaviours may also indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should always be investigated.

## **PROCEDURES**

- 1) Report bullying incidents to staff where they will be taken seriously
- 2) The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.

In cases of serious bullying, the investigations would proceed as follows:

- Reports from parents, teacher or other adult
- Reports from children
- Observations from relevant staff

- 3) Investigations may involve:
- Interviewing children concerned
  - Discussion with parents
  - Discussion with relevant staff
  - If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted
- 4) In some cases we will involve outside agencies such as Bully Busters

### **OUTCOMES**

- The bully (bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologise (an oral and written apology to child being bullied will be expected).
- Other appropriate consequences may take place.
- Parents will naturally be informed and loss of privilege at home would be encouraged.
- In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
- If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
- After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

### **PREVENTION**

We will use a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- writing a set of school/class rules
- signing a behaviour contract
- 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
- having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- holding an Anti-Bullying Week to coincide with the National Anti-Bullying Week
- discussion in circle time and RSHE and PSHE lessons

## **HELP ORGANISATIONS**

Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) 020 7354 8321

Children's Legal Centre 0845 345 4345

KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline (Mon-Fri, 10-4) 0845 1 205 204

Parentline Plus 0808 800 2222

Youth Access 020 8772 9900

Bullying Online [www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

Kidscape website [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)