

# St John's Catholic Primary School



## ANTI BULLYING POLICY

*“Christ is the Centre of our School Community where we live, love and learn together”*

At St John's, we believe that all children in our care should be protected from those who wish to deliberately hurt them, either physically or emotionally.

### **Definition**

Bullying can be described as being 'a deliberate act done to cause distress solely in order to give a feeling of power, status or other gratification to the bully. It can range from ostracising, name-calling, teasing, threats and extortion, through to physical assault on persons and/or their property. It can be an unresolved single, frightening incident which casts a shadow over a child's life, or a series of such incidents.'

At St John's Catholic Primary School staff, parents and children work together to create a happy, caring, learning environment. Bullying, either verbal, physical or indirect will not be tolerated. We aim to foster an awareness and tolerance of difference in our school, creating an environment where children are not bullied because of any special educational need. It is everyone's responsibility to aim to prevent occurrences of bullying and to deal with any incidents quickly and effectively. Research has shown time and time again that the extent of bullying in schools is greatly underestimated.

Bullying can be brought to the attention of staff either by the victim(s), their friend(s), their parent(s) or other interested people.

## **Strategies for dealing with bullying**

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too – that is why they bully.

- Discussions at length with the victim. This will require patience and understanding.  
Remember – Listen, believe, act.
- Identify the bully/bullies. Obtain witnesses if possible. Advise the Head Teacher.
- Discussions with the bully. Confront them with the details and ask them to tell the truth about the situation/incident. Make it clear that bullying is not acceptable at St John's Catholic Primary School.
- If they own up, then follow the procedure outlined below and in the Behaviour Policy.
- If they do not own up, investigate further. If it is clear that they are lying, continue with the procedure. Children usually own up if presented with all the facts.
- Separate discussions with parents of bully and victim.
- Sanctions for the bully may include withdrawal from favourite activities, loss of playtimes, exclusion from school during lunchtimes, exclusion from school, depending on the perceived severity of the incident(s).
- Continue monitoring the situation by observing at playtimes/lunchtimes and having discussions with the victim to ensure no repetition.
- As the behaviour of the bully (hopefully) improves, then favoured activities etc can be reinstated, and the child should be praised for good behaviour. This will rebuild the child(s) self-esteem, which may have been damaged after being caught bullying, or could have been low anyway, hence the bullying.

## **In order to identify incidents of bullying and the identities of bullies at St John's Catholic Primary School, we have agreed to carry out the following strategies:**

- All Staff watch for early signs of distress in pupils.
- All staff listen, believe, act.
- Posters in school advertising these measures and dissuading children from bullying.
- The childline telephone number to be displayed clearly in school.

## **Aims**

- To develop a school environment where children feel safe and secure.
- To establish effective systems which deal with any incidents of bullying.
- To encourage our pupils to feel confident enough to notify staff of any incident of bullying.
- To inform pupils, staff, governors, parents & visitors of the school's anti-bullying policy.
- To make parents, pupils, teachers and governors aware that this is an anti-bullying school.
- To encourage parents to help their child become a helpful member of the school community.
- To periodically inform pupils of the acceptable forms of behaviour and that bullying is wrong.
- To encourage pupils to be confident enough to report any incident of bullying.
- To ask parents to inform the school of any incident of bullying involving their child.
- To ensure that all reported incidents are investigated and dealt with.
- To put in place counselling and support mechanisms to help those who have been bullied.
- To give perpetrators the time to discuss why they have bullied and why their actions were wrong.
- To inform parents of all events and what actions have been taken.