

St Agnes' Catholic Primary School



Anti Bullying Policy

Key Contacts

Mrs J. Woods – Headteacher and DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

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This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2021 and “Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges” guidance.

Links with Other School Policies and Practices

- This policy links with several school policies, practices and action plans including:
- Behaviour and discipline policy
- Complaints policy
- Child Protection policy
- Confidentiality policy
- Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)
- Curriculum policies, such as, RSE/RSHE, PSHE, citizenship and computing
- Mobile technology and social media policies

Links to Legislation

There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986.

Rationale

St Agnes’ Primary School is completely opposed to bullying and it will not be tolerated. We believe that children have the right to learn in an environment which is free from fear and intimidation.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and is not tolerated in our school. We take all incidents of bullying seriously. Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be a victim of bullying.

Everyone has a right to be treated with respect and pupils who are bullying others need to learn different ways of behaving. When bullying does occur, everyone should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with seriously and with rigour in accordance with our anti-bullying policy aims and objectives.

This policy document also takes into account duties and responsibilities that arise from the Equality Act 2010 and the statutory government document, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023.

Introduction

Bullying is action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally.

Aims and Objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

At St Agnes' Primary School, we aim to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety. All children are taught how to use the internet safely and responsibly through Computing lessons, Safety Week, Safer Internet Day, safeguarding provision and in assemblies.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

The school does not tolerate bullying of any kind, including any misuse of the school's ICT network. If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, we act immediately to stop any further occurrences of such behaviour. While it is very difficult to eradicate bullying, we do everything in our power to ensure that all children attend school free from fear.

All instances of bullying and alleged bullying must be recorded on the school's internal system (CPOMS) and must be marked for the attention of a Designated Safeguarding Leads.

The Role of Governors

The governing body supports the Head Teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school antibullying strategies.

The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the Head Teacher and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

From December 2022, the Governing Body must request the Head Teacher to provide information regarding all instances of alleged bullying, peer on peer abuse, alleged instances of racism, alleged incidents of homophobia and alleged incidents of sexual abuse and report them to Governors at full Governing Body meetings.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying.

The Head Teacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.

The Head Teacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Head Teacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Head Teacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong. PSHE and RSE programmes also include opportunities to identify bullying and how to respond and who to report to.

The Head Teacher ensures that all staff receives sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.

The Head Teacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour

From December 2022, the Head Teacher must record all instances of alleged bullying, alleged instances of racism, alleged incidents of homophobia and alleged incidents of sexual abuse and report them to Governors at full Governing Body meetings.

The Role of the Teacher

Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They report all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in the school to the Head Teacher.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Head Teacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.

We keep an electronic incident logbook through our CPOMS system where we record all incidents of bullying that occur outside lesson time, either near the school or on the children's way home or to school. If any adult witnesses an act of bullying, they should inform the Head Teacher who will record the event on CPOMS.

If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the person who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the person who has bullied: we explain why such behaviour was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Head Teacher and the special needs co-ordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Head Teacher may contact external support agencies such as the social services.

Teachers routinely attend training, which enables them to become equipped to deal with incidents of bullying and behaviour management.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

The Role of Parents

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 their child's class teacher immediately.

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school. When parents are honest about their child's behaviour, whether positive or concerning, it allows the school to address issues early and effectively.

All pupils and staff are provided with access to the school's internet based programmes and parents are expected to ensure their children abide by the Acceptable Use Policy. Any infringements upon this policy including any indication of bullying through email or messaging will result in a withdrawal of privileges and the involvement of parents.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Head Teacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, and by discussion with the Head Teacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in bullying incidents.

Policy Renewed: October 2025

Policy Renewal Date: October 2027

Useful Links and Supporting Organisations

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Anti-Bullying Alliance Cyberbullying and children and young people with SEN and disabilities: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/atriskgroups/sendisability
- Stonewall: www.stonewall.org.uk
- Show Racism the Red Card: www.srtrc.org/educational
- Childnet Project DeShame (Online Sexual Harassment and Bullying): <http://www.childnet.com/our-projects/project-deshame>

