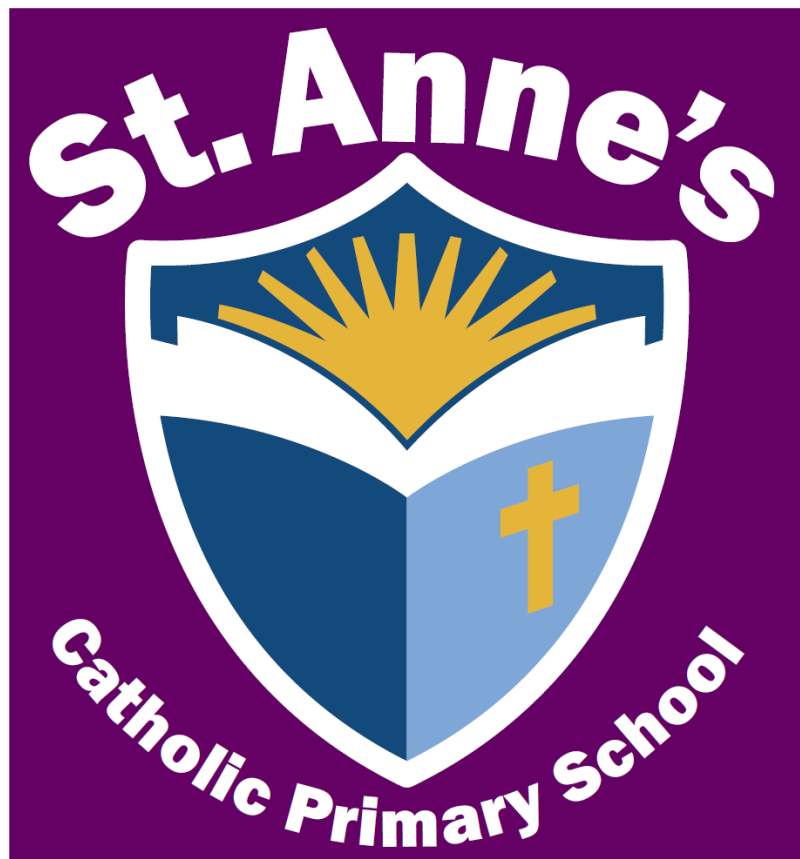


# Anti-Bullying Policy



Reviewed: October 2024

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## **PLEASE READ INCONJUNCTION WITH THE BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

### **Introduction**

Catholic belief is that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and as such, should all be treated justly.

*“The dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God.” Catechism of the Catholic Church*

At St. Anne’s School we strive to ensure that this belief is put into practice so that all are welcome. We work to ensure that each person, in all their uniqueness, is able to thrive in our Catholic school, irrespective of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, physical appearance, disability or the actual or perceived sexual orientation of themselves or of their parents/carers.

*“Because all people are equal in God’s sight, every person possesses the same dignity and has a claim to the same human rights. Hence every kind of social, racist, sexist, cultural or religious discrimination against a person is an unacceptable injustice.”*  
YOUCAT 330

At St. Anne’s School we endeavour to create a safe and stimulating environment where everyone knows that they are valued as God’s children. Every person has the right to be treated with respect and each person has the responsibility to treat others in the same way. Our mission statement is lived out so that children are enabled to have the confidence and strategies to speak up and tell of any bullying experiences, knowing that positive and fair action will be taken. As a Catholic School we have the Catholic mission at our very core. All in school are expected to actively follow and live out our mission statement:

**“Working together: In faith, learning and love.”**

### **Aims and objectives**

- To provide a secure, safe and positive Christian environment free from threat, harassment or any type of bullying behaviour, where children and adults can grow and develop.
- To create a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.
- To produce a consistent whole school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- To work with all members of the school community (staff, children, parents/carers and governors) to foster productive partnerships which help maintain a bullying-free environment.
- To celebrate diversity and the uniqueness of individuals.

### **What is bullying?**

Bullying can take many forms and can be experienced in many different ways.

DCSF ‘Safe to Learn’ 2007 defines bullying as

*‘Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally’.*

The Anti-Bullying Alliance defines bullying as

*‘The intentional repetitive or persistent hurting of one person by another, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power’*

DFE ‘Bullying at school’ November 2014 states that there is no legal definition of bullying. However, it states that bullying is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- *repeated*

- *intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally*
- *often aimed at certain groups, eg. because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation*

*It takes many forms and can include:*

- *physical assault*
- *teasing*
- *making threats*
- *name calling*
- *cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (eg email, social networks and instant messenger)*

The DFE 2014 guidance states that schools should have their own definition of bullying. Bullying is defined by our school community as:

***‘Repeated behaviour which is intended to hurt someone either emotionally or physically, and is often aimed at certain people because of their race, religion, or any other aspect such as appearance, personal preferences, lifestyle, ability or disability’.***

During anti-bullying week our children identified bullying as:

***‘Emotional or physical abuse that occurs several times on purpose’.***

### **Types of Bullying**

Bullying can be categorised into seven main types:

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture
- Bullying related to home circumstances
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions
- Bullying related to special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities
- Bullying related to gifts and talents
- Bullying related to sexual orientation
- Bullying related to gender

#### **Bullying related to race, religion or culture**

Racist, faith-based or cultural bullying is bullying based on a person’s background, colour, religion or heritage. This form of bullying has a negative impact on a child’s sense of identity, self-worth and self-esteem. It also can be negative about the child’s family, and about their ethnic or faith community as a whole.

#### **Bullying related to home circumstances**

The home circumstances of children can make them vulnerable to bullying. This may include obvious signs of affluence or lack of it, being a looked after child, being a young carer or having a family member with a disability or special need.

#### **Bullying related to appearance or health conditions**

Children with health or visible medical conditions, or perceived physical characteristics, such as size and weight may be vulnerable to bullying.

#### **Bullying related to special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities**

Children with SEN and disabilities are vulnerable to bullying. Their differences can be used by bullies to isolate them from friendship groups.

#### **Bullying related to gifts and talents**

Children and young people who are gifted and talented can be vulnerable to bullying. Their achievements and abilities can set them apart from their peers. This may lead to resentment and jealousy among their peers which may make them targets for bullying behaviour.

### **Bullying related to sexual orientation**

Homophobic bullying involves the targeting of individuals on the basis of their perceived or actual sexual orientation. Homophobic bullying includes all forms of bullying but in particular it can include homophobic language. This is terms of verbal abuse used towards lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual people or those who are perceived LGBT. It can be used as an insult or to refer to something or someone as inferior eg derogatory use of the word 'gay'.

### **Bullying related to gender**

Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying affects both genders. Sexist bullying is based on sexist attitudes that, when expressed, demean, intimidate or harm another person because of their sex or gender. Both sexes may be victims and each may be a victim of their own sex. Children who feel that they belong to another gender or do not conform with the stereotypically defined roles often ascribed to particular genders, can also become a target of bullying.

### **Forms of Bullying**

Different forms of bullying can be seen within the seven identified types of bullying. Forms of bullying include:

#### **Physical**

This can include physical harm such as punching or pushing, being made to give money or belongings, or forcing a child to act against their will.

#### **Verbal**

Verbal bullying can include being teased in a nasty way, being called 'gay' in a derogatory way, being insulted about race, religion or culture, being called names or being the subject of offensive comments.

#### **Indirect**

This can include being deliberately excluded from groups or ignored, or being the subject of tales or rumours.

#### **Electronic /'cyberbullying'**

This form of bullying includes verbal or indirect bullying via text message, email, instant messenger services or social network sites or images spread via the internet or mobile phones.

### **Our Approach to Bullying**

Our approach to bullying is informed by the Catholic faith.

***"Every human being is created in God's image and likeness and therefore is valuable and worthy of respect."***

***Christ at the Centre***

#### **Key Principles**

- The school leadership will work with all in our community to prevent all forms of bullying, including prejudice based bullying, and to fully address incidents of bullying as they arise.
- All bullying in its variety of forms and types will be taken equally seriously and addressed appropriately.
- We will address bullying within the framework of Catholic beliefs and Church teaching and in a way which is age-appropriate.

#### **Responding to bullying**

When responding to incidents of bullying we aim:

- to make the child who has been bullied feel safe

- to encourage better behaviour from the child who has displayed bullying behaviours
- Give positive messages to all that bullying will not be tolerated at St Anne's Catholic Primary School
- Ensure that consequences arise for those who engage in bullying behaviour

### **Homophobic bullying and using homophobic language**

Homophobic language can be used as an insult or to refer to something or someone as inferior such as the derogatory use of the word 'gay'. The derogatory use of homophobic language in our school will always be challenged even if it appears to be being used without any homophobic intent.

### **Children with SEN or disabilities**

Our school is committed to actively promoting the equality of opportunity for all children with SEN or disabilities. Where children with SEN and disabilities are themselves found to be bullying, in most cases (except those related to specific conditions) school will expect the same standards of behaviour as those which apply to the rest of the school community, having made the reasonable adjustments necessary.

### **Staff training**

Training of all staff including all teaching and support staff takes place annually and attendance is logged. All adults working in the school know the anti-bullying policy and the procedures and forms used for reporting of incidents. Training on anti-bullying is part of the induction of new staff. All staff receive training about being sensitive to the changes of behaviour that may indicate that a child is being bullied. Those being bullied may demonstrate physical, emotional and behavioural problems or changes. Staff are expected to take preventative measures. This includes being aware of where and when bullying might take place. This awareness is informed by discussions with children and from questionnaires completed by children. The staff training includes equality training to raise awareness among staff of potential prejudicial behaviour and how not to reinforce stereotypes.

### **Curriculum**

As a Catholic school Religious Education is the core subject of our curriculum. There are opportunities within RE to make links with Anti-Bullying Alliance, Rights Respecting Schools, Fairtrade, Comenius Project, Connecting Classrooms, and Mini Vinnies to reinforce the principles of human rights, Catholic social teaching and the uniqueness of the individual, made in God's image and likeness. Our curriculum as a whole is planned and delivered to enable children to develop empathy, to understand the effect bullying has on people and to take responsibility for trying to prevent bullying. Through a variety of planned activities across the curriculum such as circle time, role-play, class performances, celebration assemblies, our children gain in self-confidence and develop strategies to speak up for themselves and express their own thoughts and opinions. Children have a wide range of opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of diversity and an assortment of strategies to protect themselves from bullying. This is explicitly planned within the PSHE and Citizenship programmes delivered in school and through the annual celebration of Anti-bullying week. Staff are also expected and encouraged to take advantage of unplanned opportunities to celebrate diversity and to reinforce the principles of anti-bullying.

### **Pastoral structure**

Children are elected yearly to ensure continuity of the council. The elected school council regularly meets with Mrs. Stokoe (Headteacher) to discuss issues related to the school and the pupils. e.g. fundraising/charity work, excellence and enjoyment, or ways to further enhancing the school environment.

The house system provides a structure of support for all children and helps to create an atmosphere where our children know that they will be listened to and where their problems and worries are taken seriously and responded to with sensitivity.

### **Collective Worship and assemblies**

In collective worship and assemblies, themes and values play a part in challenging prejudice and promoting justice for all. The timetable of collective worship includes specific opportunities throughout the year (eg Statements to Live By, Remembrance Day, Anti-bullying week, Good Samaritan Week, Diwali, Eid) which support work in anti-bullying. The children are encouraged to live the gospel values by following Christ's example.

### **Reporting and recording of incidents of bullying**

Our school has a clear and well publicised system for reporting bullying. Staff have annual training and children and parents/carers are explicitly reminded of the school's procedures each year during anti-bullying week. All incidents of unacceptable behaviour and/or bullying are logged on the incident report form and class incident books.

### **Reporting to the Local Authority**

All incidents of racist bullying are reported to the local authority.

### **The Role of the Governing Body**

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. This is done through a monitoring log and through questionnaire which is conducted annually with all parents, and feedback from pupil voice meetings. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies. The lead governor for Anti-Bullying is [Paul Arrowsmith](#).

### **Monitoring the Policy**

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy annually. To discover the extent to which bullying exists in school and to monitor the extent to which our anti-bullying policy is effective, the log and strategies will be reviewed alongside the questionnaire.

It is the responsibility of the school governing body to review the effectiveness of this policy. This is done by examining the school's reporting system, and through the report of the headteacher. Governors will analyse information with regard to the types and forms of bullying.