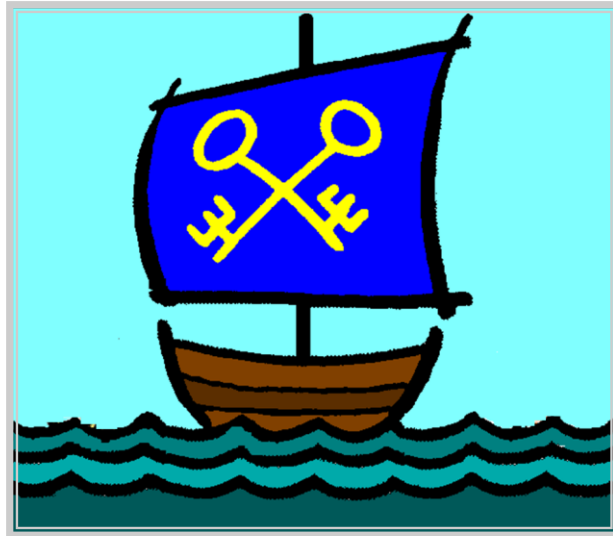


ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Approved by Governors : 24th May 2011

Amended: 7th February 2012

Amended : October 2012

Reviewed : November 2016

Reviewed : September 2020

Reviewed : January 2023

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Introduction

The aim of the Anti-Bullying Policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is an anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at schools.

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The four main types of bullying are:-

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft);
- Verbal (name calling, racist remarks);
- Indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups).
- Cyber bullying.

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. Pupils must be encouraged to report bullying in schools.

All teaching and support staff are alert to the signs of bullying and will act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with the school's policy.

Statutory duty of Schools

Headteachers have a legal duty under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents and pupils.

Implementation

Schools

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:-

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached;

- A clear account of the incident will be recorded and given to the Headteacher;
- The Headteacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident;
- Class teachers will be kept informed of the incident and the pupils concerned;
- Parents will be kept informed;
- Punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned.

Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:-

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a member of staff;
- Reassuring the pupil;
- Offering continuous support;
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:-

- Discussing what happened;
- Discovering why the pupil became involved;
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change;
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil.

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:-

- Official warnings to cease offending;
- Exclusion from playtimes and lunchtimes;
- Minor fixed-term exclusion;
- Major fixed-term exclusion;
- Permanent exclusion.

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, assemblies, participation in anti-bullying week, subject areas as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this Policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The Policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Cyber Bullying

What is Cyber-Bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

There are many types of cyber-bullying. Although there may be some of which we are unaware, here are the more common -

1. **Text messages** —that are threatening, have intent to or cause discomfort - also included here is "bluejacking" (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using "Bluetooth" wireless technology)
2. **Picture/video-clips** via mobile phone cameras, or videos uploaded on to websites - images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed.
3. **Mobile phone calls** — silent calls or abusive messages; or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible.
4. **Emails** — threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name.
5. **Chatroom or in-app bullying** — menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in web-based chatroom.
6. **Instant messaging (IM)** — unpleasant messages sent while children conduct realtime conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger) or Yahoo Chat - although there are others.
7. **Bullying via websites** — use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal "own web space" sites such as Bebo (which works by signing on in one's school, therefore making it easy to find a victim) and Myspace - although there are others.
8. **Impersonating another through any of the above mediums.**

Any file published on to a public domain is classed as a repeated action of bullying, as it can be accessed or viewed on more than one occasion.

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School, we take this bullying as seriously as all other types of bullying and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually. An episode may result in a simple verbal warning. It might result in a parental discussion. Clearly, more serious cases will result in further sanctions.

Technology allows the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyber-bullying leaves no physical scars so it is, perhaps, less evident to a parent or teacher, but it is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe.

Young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology, an area that can seem a closed world to adults. For example, the numerous acronyms used by young people in chat rooms and in text messages (POS - Parents Over Shoulder, TUL - Tell You Later) make it difficult for adults to recognise potential threats.

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School, pupils are taught how to:
understand how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misusing them;
know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber-bullied;
report any problems with cyber-bullying. If they do have a problem, they can talk to the school, parents, the police, the mobile network (for phone) or the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School has an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that includes clear statements about e-communications and contains -

- Information for parents on:
e-communication standards and practices in schools, what to do if problems arise; what's being taught in the curriculum;
- Support for parents and pupils if cyber-bullying occurs by: assessing the harm caused, identifying those involved, taking steps to repair harm and to prevent recurrence.

Under common law, schools have always had the right to take disciplinary action in respect of conduct that affects the school's reputation or the welfare of a member of the school community. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides an explicit right for all schools to take action in respect of misconduct whether or not pupils are on school premises or in the care of the school at the time.

Where cyber-bullying takes place off the school premises, the school reserves the right to intervene if appropriate.

CONSEQUENCES

There will be consequences for bullying behaviour.
The consequences will vary according to the severity of the incident but all incidents of bullying will be treated seriously -
not excluding referral to the Police.