

SAINT JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ANTI – BULLYING POLICY

Statement of intent

At Saint Joseph's School we strive to ensure that the curriculum provides opportunity for growth through the acquisition of skills and knowledge in a Catholic setting. We aim to create a school environment, which nurtures the whole child, allowing for the development of each individual's potential, giving him/her a framework for living where sound relationships can be established and where everyone has dignity and is valued.

This document is a statement of the aims, principals and strategies for tackling bullying at St. Joseph's School. This policy is for information to all members of staff, parents and to all others working within the school. It will ensure effective communication between staff, governors, parents and children. It should be read in conjunction with the School Mission Statement and the School Behaviour Policy.

DEFINITION

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

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying as it can damage individuals. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. The ethos of St. Joseph's School is one where everyone is valued and appreciated for themselves, and in which care and consideration for others is nurtured in a community which is seeking to live out Gospel values.

We aim to ensure a safe and secure environment rooted in Gospel values where all children can learn without anxiety.

Our school aims to respond consistently, promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

The building of positive relationships between children and their peers is integral to the life of the school. Emphasis is placed upon the shared community, the family of St Joseph's School, and on shared responsibility for the welfare of that family.

AIMS

We aim to:

- Provide a secure, safe environment which will discourage bullying
- To deal with bullying if and when it occurs
- To incorporate the policy as part of our Policy For Good Behaviour

Within this framework of our school as a caring, Catholic community, we ensure that bullying is dealt with by enabling children to:

- Identify and express feelings and emotions and know that help is available.
- Be sensitive to and respect the rights, needs and wishes of others.
- Become aware of positive relationships and issues of trust.
- Develop skills of co-operation, sharing and listening.
- Develop strategies for dealing with conflict and awareness of acceptable behaviour.
- Be assertive and have a high self esteem.
- Know that all members of staff abhor bullying in any form and will do everything in their power to prevent a child from being hurt in any way.

As a staff we will endeavour to:

- Deal with bullying immediately in a calm, planned and consistent way.
- Offer support to the victim of bullying
- Ensure that the bully understands the seriousness of his/her actions.
- Carefully supervise any times of the day or areas of the school where bullying is likely to occur – (be pro-active as opposed to re-active).
- Monitor the situation where appropriate.
- Involve and inform parents of any problems their child may be encountering.

Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
5. Strategies will be given to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour through education, example and consequences.

Outcomes

1. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled through openness and dialogue
2. The bully (bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
3. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
4. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Strategies for Preventing Bullying:

- Create awareness.
- Create an environment where the victim can get help.
- Monitor and support victim and bully.
- Involve children in role play, drama and stories to explore feelings, and situations (termly assemblies lead by different year groups and children to raise awareness of issues surrounding bullying and to know the difference between bullying and boisterous behaviour).
- Ensure that the whole school community is familiar with the policy on bullying., to understand
- Be just and fair in keeping with the Gospel message, to understand the bully his/her needs and distress (adopt a no blame approach).
- Discuss any issues arising from bullying in circle time or PHSE activities.

APPENDIX:

CYBER BULLYING

There are many ways in which children may be exposed to Cyber Bullying including:

- bullying by text messaging
- sending photographs/video clips over a mobile phone or other electronic device
- Using a mobile device to make unwanted aggressive calls
- Bullying by e mail
- Chat room bullying
- Bullying via websites
- Bullying through instant messaging
- Bullying through the mis-use of social net working sites such as Face Book

School Policy on Cyber Bullying

No pupil mobile phones are allowed in school except when a parent specifically requests that a child has one. In such instances the phones are held by the class teacher until the end of the day.

The school recognises that many pupils have mobile phones outside school and that many pupils have access to Face Book and/or other social networking sites.

To that end:

- the school arranges for partners e.g. Barnardo's to come into school to talk about safe use of the net and mobile phones.
- Teachers report any instances of Bullying to the Headteacher
- victims of cyber bullying should keep emails and text as evidence for tracing and possible police action.
- the school has a code of conduct for use of the net and access is screened by a variety of blocks which are updated regularly.
- Teachers must teach safe internet use and strictly apply all school policies.

At St Joseph's we believe that parental support and understanding in safe use of the net is an essential component in managing cyber bullying. Therefore we

endeavour to work in partnership with parents and other agencies to ensure that children are aware of the risks in using electronic devices as well as the benefits and know how to keep themselves safe and to report any incidents of bullying.

A useful website is:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Children should understand that they must tell an adult if they are being bullied in these ways, that they should not delete any bullying

Reviewed November 2018