



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Mission Statement

We are a Roman Catholic Community committed to:

- Mutual respect, positive encouragement and participation.
- Recognising the different personal and educational needs of all pupils.
- The delivery of the full national curriculum together with a religious education syllabus approved by the Catholic Church.
- The highest standards of teaching, learning and performance.
- Maintaining a supportive partnership with parents, the parish, and the wider community.
- The professional development of all staff.

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a **TELLING** school. This means that **anyone** who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is not relationship conflict, it is the use of planned and persistent unkindness or aggression with the intention of hurting another person.

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:-

- **Emotional** Being unfriendly, excluding, and tormenting (e.g hiding books and threatening gestures.)
- **Physical** Pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- **Racist** Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures etc.
- **Verbal** Persistent name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- **Text and e-mail**

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- **Sexist** (gender based)

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying hurts. No-one deserves to be the victim of bullying. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

We, as a school, have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Objectives of this Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:-

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Begins to do poorly at school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or 'go missing'
- Asks for money or starts stealing money

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- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what is wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures

1. Staff have a responsibility to encourage pupils to report incidents of bullying through assemblies, circle time, PSHE lessons etc.
2. Staff will investigate the incident and try to resolve the situation but if it is persistent, all future incidents will be recorded and further action taken.
3. Parents of all parties will be informed at this stage. They may be invited to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. The bully (bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
5. The bully may be taken off the playground for a fixed period of time. In extremely serious cases suspension, fixed term suspension or even exclusion may be considered.
6. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
7. Attempts will be made to help the bully change their behaviour.

IF NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE THE POLICE WILL BE INFORMED.

Prevention

We will use a range of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. As and when appropriate these may include:-

- Writing a set of class rules and signing up to them
- Frequent reminders of our mission statement and British Values
- Following our playground rules
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures about bullying

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- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Making up role plays
- Having discussions about bullying, strategies to deal with bullying and consequences
- School and class council discussions
- Peer mediators used when appropriate

ORIGINAL