



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Definitions:

- Bullying is a wilful, conscious desire to hurt another and put him/her under stress” (Tattum 1988).
- We consider bullying to be repeated acts of unkindness, name-calling (including names relating to race, ethnicity, disability and homophobia), isolating pupils, physical aggression and threatening and intimidating behaviour.
- Cyberbullying can be defined as “The use of Information Communication Technology, particularly mobile phones and the internet to deliberately hurt or upset someone” DCSF 2007.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed biennially.

Aims

1. To provide all staff, pupils, parents and governors with an understanding of bullying and its effects.
2. To build a positive and supportive environment where children can learn by example.
3. To develop a consistent approach to the handling and care of children.
4. To enhance the self-esteem of both staff and pupils.
5. To develop a shared ethos based on Christian values.
6. To enhance home-school liaison.

Objectives

1. Establish preventative steps.
2. Establish set procedures to follow when bullying takes place.
3. Enable children to feel they can discuss their problems openly.
4. Enable children to feel they will be listened to and taken seriously.
5. Enable children to accept that they need to keep themselves and others safe.

COMBATING BULLYING

In the classroom all teachers look for opportunities to:

- Promote anti-bullying values and co-operative behaviour
- Raise awareness about bullying behaviour and the school's bullying policy
- Challenge attitudes, increase understanding of victims
- Build an anti-bullying ethos

Incidents from history, current affairs or fiction can be used. There are many links with the PSHE policy. School Assemblies are used for reinforcing positive values. Theatre groups often offer suitable workshop productions and drama is an excellent medium to explore bullying issues.

Children will be taught:

- How to react and respond to bullying behaviour giving a positive and assertive reaction
- How to challenge bullying behaviour, responding with "I don't like you doing that – I want you to stop"
- How to be active supporters of victims when bullying is observed

Children will be encouraged to:

- Tell a member of staff if they observe bullying
- Tell a member of staff if they are being bullied
- Tell the bully to stop and let them know they disapprove
- Encourage a bullied child to join their activities
- Ensure no child is left out

Beyond the Classroom:

Bullying is more likely to happen out of sight of adults. Incidents will occur in corners of the playground, corridors, toilets, queues, school grounds and journeys to and from school and through the internet. To lessen the likelihood of bullying, we:

- Provide good playground supervision
- Provide activities during playtime
- Run a 'friendship group'
- Make staff available to talk to
- Provide information and support on e-bullying throughout the children's time at St Peter's. This will be through specific talks each year and on-going care and discussion.
- Remind children and parents regularly about our policy on anti-bullying. New parents are given an information leaflet (Appendix 1).

Action

When dealing with bullying we have clear procedures in place to investigate any allegations

- Listen to both victim and bully adopting the 'no blame' approach. All accusations will be taken seriously. Facts and witnesses will be brought together, including where and how often it has happened and what the child has done already.
Very often it is difficult to prove whether it is an isolated incident, in which case it is not necessarily bullying, but will still be dealt with appropriately
- The bully will be punished appropriately – quite often exclusion from playtime for a short period is sufficient. If the bully repeats his /her action, parents will be notified.
Children will be told if they observe bullying and do nothing, they are colluding in bullying, which is why it is important for them to tell an adult.

E-bullying:

E-bullying, or cyber-bullying is when people use information communication technology such as mobile phones, instant messaging, e-mail, chat rooms or social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to harass, threaten or intimidate someone.

Pupils at St Peter's are taught about the uses and dangers of internet and are taught to be responsible users of Information and Communication Technology.

In the event of e-bullying taking place on personal equipment such as a phone or iPad at home, we ask parents to copy or screenshot any evidence and bring it to the school's attention so that we can deal with the matter appropriately.

In school, all internet activity is logged for purposes of monitoring and safeguarding, and may be used to investigate any incidents.

Action

- In cases of e-bullying, all incidents reported will be recorded by the Assistant Headteacher.
- All incidents will be investigated fully where possible and appropriate and dealt with accordingly.
- The school will take steps to identify the bully; this may include examining school system logs, identifying and interviewing possible witnesses, and contacting the service provider and the Police, if necessary.
- Internet access may be suspended or the use of school iPads or computers may be withdrawn.
- Parent/carers of pupils will be informed and the Police may be contacted if a criminal offence is suspected.

MONITORING

The Senior Management Team will discuss all bullying issues (should there be any) at weekly meetings.