

# ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Antibullying Policy



**Headteacher: Mr. S Atkinson**

### **School Mission Statement**

Achieve in God's Love.

St Edward's is at the heart of a community rooted in its core values. Our children, by their actions, grow in the image of God.

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| Policy reviewed: September 2026<br>Author: Mr. A Tickner<br>To be reviewed: October 2026 |
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### **Principles**

At St. Edward's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for our pupils so they can learn in a secure and supportive atmosphere. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.

It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that all members of the school community work within a safe and enabling environment. Issues of bullying must be responded to promptly and effectively.

This policy is closely linked with our Behaviour Policy, our Safeguarding Policy, our school Code of Conduct and the school's Vision, Aims and Values.

### **Aims**

We are determined to promote and develop a school ethos where bullying behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, to ensure a safe and secure environment is sustained for all pupils. We aim for all pupils to reach their potential academically, socially and personally through learning and playing in a safe and secure environment.

## **Bullying Definition**

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those who are being bullied to defend themselves.

The main types of bullying are:

- being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- threatening or inappropriate text messaging and electronic messaging through social networking sites

It is important to recognise that the behaviours listed above may not always constitute bullying. However, all of the above behaviours do need to be addressed if they occur. It is also important that pupils and parents understand what bullying is and that falling out with friends is not bullying.

We ensure that all parents, staff and pupils have full access to this policy via the internet or school office.

## **Identifying and Responding to Bullying**

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is an essential to keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies as well as PSHE lessons, pupils are taught to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that someone is being bullied.

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Each year we shall participate in activities during the National Anti-Bullying Week highlighting aspects of bullying and its effects on people. We shall consider all opportunities to address bullying through the curriculum, such as the use of texts in literacy, our RE scheme of work and through the School Council. Circle time provides a forum in which bullying issues can be discussed.

We shall actively provide opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including their resilience.

We have older pupils who act as buddies to other pupils. They can look out for inappropriate behaviour on the playground as well as acting as a listening friend for pupils who may find it difficult to talk to an adult. They will provide positive role models and actively promote anti bullying behaviour by organising playground activities to include all pupils.

This academic year, we are excited to introduce and implement a new initiative: WFA (World Friendship Ambassadors). A group of pupils from Year 6 will work alongside our WFA Staff Leads, Mr. Tickner and Ms Finnigan, to champion *friendship education* across the school and support children from all key stages. All of our WFA sessions will be centered around three core values; kindness, equity and belonging.

Regular audits of bullying behaviour are made and issues addressed as required.

A child may indicate by signs or behaviours that he or she is being bullied.

Adults need to be aware of the possible signs and that they should investigate if a child;

- Is reluctant or fearful of walking to or from school
- Displays a change to their usual routine
- Is reluctant to come to school
- Unexplained absence
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- School work shows signs of decline: lack of interest; decline in attainment
- Has possessions which are damaged or “missing”
- Has unexplained injuries
- Stops eating/loss of appetite
- Is worried to say what is wrong
- Becomes aggressive and bullies’ other children
- Tries to avoid going out at play and lunch time.
- Spends all of playtime near an adult

This is not an exhaustive list and some children may not show any of these behaviours. However, any changes in behaviour may indicate a problem and should be investigated.

If bullying, or cyber-bullying, does occur, all pupils should feel empowered to report it and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. It is our collective responsibility as members of St. Edward’s Catholic Primary School to report bullying in order to protect others within our school community.

### **Responding to Bullying**

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to the Senior Leadership Team.

In any case of alleged bullying, a senior member of staff should first establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and pupil witnesses if necessary and appropriate. Parents of both parties should be informed.

All bullying incidents must be recorded on CPOMS.

If the allegation of bullying is upheld, the Headteacher should, wherever possible, seek to use a restorative approach with the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) together. The perpetrator(s) should fully understand the consequences of their actions on the victim(s), and apologise without reservation. Both parties should be clear that a repeat of these behaviours will not be acceptable.

If the situation does not improve, the Headteacher should meet with the parent(s) of the bullying child(ren) and agree clear expectations and boundaries which would be shared with the pupils involved. Any further incidents should lead to intervention (e.g. through outside agencies), further monitoring, support and punitive sanctions as deemed necessary. Any necessary action should be taken until the bullying has stopped.

In conclusion, it is important to recognise that all schools have incidents of bullying at some time. However, if the bullying behaviour goes unchallenged and is not acted upon school becomes a horrible place to be for everyone. Therefore, at St. Edward's Catholic Primary School, we treat all reported incidents of bullying seriously and do all we can to ensure school is a pleasant, safe and happy place for everyone.