

The Federation of St Bernadette's and St. Patrick's Catholic Primary Schools



Anti Bullying Policy

Policy Reference:	AB1 – F
Responsibility:	Curriculum and Standards
Designation:	Statutory
Reviewed by:	Mrs Paula Dix
This Review:	January 2024
Next Review Due:	January 2027
Cycle:	3 yearly
Ratified by Full Governing Body on:	

Signed:

XXX

Chair of Governors

At our school, with Jesus in our hearts, we have:

***The passion to learn;
The courage to fail; The strength to love.***

With Christ as our guide and example we celebrate the uniqueness of the individual.

***Together we will try to:
Learn from Jesus;
Love like Jesus;
Live like Jesus.***

Rationale

This policy supports the distinctive nature of the federation of St Bernadette's and St Patrick's Schools, which is based upon Gospel values and the commitment to the belief that each child and adult is unique and has the right to feel valued, safe and happy in their environment.

We believe that the full development of each child is crucial - physically, mentally, spiritually and socially and that all members of our communities have the right to a learning and work environment free from intimidation, humiliation and hurt. We all share a responsibility to create a culture of caring which will not tolerate bullying. This policy provides clear aims for combating bullying in the school, responding to bullying behaviours and protecting and supporting all parties involved.

Definition

There is no legal definition of bullying, however, it is usually defined as behaviour that is:

- Repeated
- Intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

Bullying takes many forms, often includes an imbalance of power and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying- bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social media networks and instant messenger)

Bullying impacts on the lives of the person being bullied, those doing the bullying and those looking on. In November 1999 it became a legal requirement for all schools to develop an Anti-Bullying Policy.

Aims

- To enable all members of our communities to understand that bullying is wrong and can have a significant impact on individual children
- To develop a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable
- To facilitate a safe and secure environment where all can learn, work and play without anxiety or fear
- To provide a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur, including appropriate support, reconciliation and reparation

Guidelines

Prevention of bullying will include the following:

- Moral education in the context of gospel values, where the value of the individual is affirmed and the importance of the qualities of compassion, kindness, reconciliation, tolerance, respect and justice are demonstrated and encouraged.
- Children will be made aware of their rights as a child and taught to consider the rights, respect & responsibility of others and how bullying infringes these rights.

- Staff and children are expected to act as role models, particularly those in leadership positions e.g. House Captains, School Council.
- Children will be taught the skills to help them develop positive self-esteem, confidence and resilience.
- Children are expected to report incidents or aspects of behaviour that they believe may constitute bullying to a member of staff.
- All staff are responsible for creating a school climate of mutual support, trust, kindness and compassion, so making bullying less likely.

Cyber bullying

Like other forms of bullying, cyber bullying implies a relationship where an individual has some influence or advantage that is used improperly over another person, where the victim is subjected to a disadvantage or detriment, and where the behaviour is unwarranted and unwelcome to the victim.

The technological environment we live in has meant that acts of bullying and harassment now include the use of information and communications technology including email and social networking.

A child does not need to directly experience this form of bullying in order for it to be classed as cyber bullying. The fact that they are aware that offensive or derogatory comments about them have been placed online still constitutes cyber-bullying.

Children are expected and encouraged to report any incidents or aspects of online behaviour which may constitute bullying to a member of staff as soon as possible or to their parent.

Children and staff need to be aware that no matter what the privacy settings on their social media/networking site, inappropriate or derogatory comments about another person can find their way into the public domain even when not intended.

The federation will ensure that children, staff and parents receive updated information regarding online safety and the dangers of cyber bullying at regular, appropriate intervals.

Teachers will monitor use of remote learning platforms and intervene immediately if inappropriate comments are reported or detected.

Monitoring

Behaviour is closely monitored, including incidents of bullying. One off serious incidents of bullying or repeated incidents must be logged on the CPOMS system.

Incidents of bullying are reported termly to governors and annually to the LA.
The governing body will review the anti-bullying policy every three years.

The Head of School will monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis and report to the governing body, making recommendations for further amendments as appropriate.

