

St Bede's Catholic Primary School Sacriston Anti Bullying Policy

St Bede's Catholic Primary School is committed to the principles of inclusion. We have a caring, supportive ethos that seeks to value all individuals, underpinned by our mission statement, '*Shine Brightly for all with Christ as our Guide*'. Our school promotes equality of opportunity for all people, pupils, staff, parents, carers, and others who use our school.

By promoting a positive attitude towards all people, we aim to eliminate discrimination and harassment related to disability and/or any of the protected characteristics and thereby fulfil an essential component of our ethos.

We will involve all people in informing the direction our school takes to promote equality of opportunity and accessibility to the school environment. We also seek to encourage full participation of all people in the school community even if this requires more favourable treatment.

Our school aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in a happy, challenging environment where each pupil can develop to the maximum of his/her potential and feel valued as an individual who can contribute to the life of our school and society in general.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all children, can learn without anxiety.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur. It relates directly to other policies and has taken into consideration aspects of the following policies;

- Behaviour,
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Internet Safety,
- Equality

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regards to the eradication of bullying in our school.

Definition of Bullying

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

Bullying is wrong and damages individuals. As a school we therefore do all that we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

There are many different forms of bullying and as a school we are aware of how important it is to understand and be able to identify each form of bullying.

These include:

- Physical

Unwanted physical contact between two people, this includes: pushing, punching, kicking, shoving etc.

- Emotional

Bullying that can cause damage to a child's emotional well-being. This could come in the form of spreading rumours, leaving children out of certain things, children ganging up on others, ignoring or making fun of others.

- Verbal

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Any verbal statements or accusations that cause the victim distress.

- Cyber Bullying

When a child is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

As a school we treat all individuals equally and promote inclusion. We do not discriminate against anyone, be they staff or pupil, on the grounds of their sex, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins. This is in line with the 2010 equality act and covers both direct and indirect discrimination.

- We promote the principles of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide in our school.
- We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by the school.
- We constantly strive to remove any forms of indirect discrimination that may form barriers to learning.
- We ensure that all recruitment, employment, promotion and training systems are fair to all, and provide opportunities for everyone to achieve.
- We challenge stereotyping and prejudice whenever it occurs.
- We celebrate the cultural diversity of our community and show respect for all minority groups.
- We are aware that prejudice and stereotyping is caused by low self-image and ignorance. Through positive educational experiences and support for each individual's point of view, we aim to promote positive social attitudes and respect for all.

Anti-racism

It is the right of all pupils to receive the best education the school can provide, with access to all educational activities organised by the school. We do not tolerate any forms of racism or racist behaviour. Should a racist incident occur, we will act immediately to prevent any repetition of the incident.

We endeavour to make our school welcoming to all minority groups. We promote an understanding of different cultures through the topics studied by the children, and we reflect this in the displays of work shown around the school.

Our curriculum reflects the attitudes, values and respect that we have for minority ethnic groups. So, for example, the geography curriculum gives due emphasis to the culture of indigenous groups and recognises the diverse cultural nature of different countries studied. As part of the Religious Education curriculum, we study the beliefs and practices of followers of Islam and Judaism. Should anyone at our school be a victim of racism, we will do all we can to support that person in overcoming any difficulties they may have.

SEND

At St Bede's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that all pupils are entitled to a quality of provision that will enable them to achieve their potential. By promoting a positive attitude towards the acceptance of our differences, we aim to eliminate discrimination, harassment and bullying related to disability. Working in partnership with other agencies and parents, we aim to provide a positive educational experience for all our pupils, including those with a special educational need and/or disability.

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We promote:

- Pupil self-confidence so that each pupil develops a sense of personal worth and is confident in his/her ability to succeed.
- Positive relationships to help pupils develop good relations with others, based on mutual respect and consideration, and an understanding of, and a tolerance towards various races, religions and cultures.
- Co-operation to develop the abilities of all pupils to contribute as members of groups and recognising their responsibilities.
- Self-discipline so that pupils understand the need for high standards of behaviour and to develop responsibility towards people and property.

Bullying of and by staff

Please see whistleblowing policy.

How can we report bullying?

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied.

If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and sanctions for the child who has carried out the bullying, which may involve contacting parents.

We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the head teacher and the special needs co-ordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the head teacher may contact external support agencies such as social services or the EWEL team.

Pupils are encouraged to tell a teacher straight away if they think that they are being bullied, in order for intervention to take place immediately. Similarly, with parents, we have an open - door policy and parents are aware that all members of staff are available to talk to at any time. An appointment can be made in order for a meeting to be held with regards to the incident. Parents, who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately. Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

Prevention of bullying.

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. Our policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

We use our 'Good to be Green' behaviour strategy as a means of promoting good relationships, so that pupils can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn. This strategy supports the school community in allowing everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way.

'Shine Brightly for all with Christ as our Guide'

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- We expect every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others.
- We strive to help children to grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.
- We reward good behaviour, as we believe that this will develop an ethos of kindness and co-operation. Our 'Good to be Green' system is designed to promote good behaviour, rather than merely deter anti-social behaviour.

Children hold positive relationships with all members of staff and children. Children are encouraged to work together as one family, caring and looking after one another.

As a school we have extremely supportive home links and have an open - door policy, welcoming and involving parents at every given opportunity.

As a whole school we take part in Anti-Bullying week, Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health week annually. We support other special events that celebrate diversity such as Black History Month. We work together to raise awareness of bullying.

The role of Governors.

The governing committee supports the head teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the head teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request. This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying records, and by discussion with the headteacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in bullying incidents.