



# St Paul's C of E (c) Primary School

Compassion: Endurance: Friendship:

## Anti-Bullying

### Rationale:

All children and young people have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting young people's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood.

We base our Anti-Bullying and Behaviour policy upon the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the whole school and class charters reflect this. The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others.

"You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind" Article 19.

### Aims:

The aim of the anti-bullying policy is to ensure that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying is anti-social behaviour and affects everyone; it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupils be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available at schools.

### **STATUTORY DUTY OF SCHOOLS**

There are a number of statutory obligations on schools with regard to behaviour which establish clear responsibilities to respond to bullying. In particular section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006:

- provides that every school must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents;
- gives head teachers the ability to discipline pupils for poor behaviour that occurs even when the pupil is not on school premises or under the lawful control of school staff.

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, we will report our concerns to the local authority children's social care. Even where safeguarding is not considered to be an issue, we may need to draw on a range of external services to support the pupil who is experiencing bullying, or to tackle any underlying issue which has contributed to a child engaging in bullying.

## **WHAT IS BULLYING?**

“Bullying behaviour abuses an imbalance of power to repeatedly and intentionally cause emotional or physical harm to another person or group of people. Isolated instances of hurtful behaviour, teasing or arguments between individuals would not be seen as bullying” (Torfaen definition 2008)

Bullying generally takes one of four forms:

- Indirect - being unfriendly, spreading rumours, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding bags or books)
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping or any form of violence
- Verbal - name-calling, teasing, threats, sarcasm
- Cyber - All areas of internet misuse, such as nasty and/or threatening emails, misuse of blogs, gaming websites, internet chat rooms and instant messaging. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology , i.e. camera and video facilities

Although not an exhaustive list, common examples of bullying include:

- Racial bullying
- Homophobic bullying
- Bullying based on disability, ability, gender, appearance or circumstance

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming shy and nervous, feigning illness, taking unusual absences or clinging to adults. There may be evidence of changes in work patterns, lacking concentration or truanting from school. Pupils must be encouraged to report bullying in schools. All school staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with this school policy.

## **BULLYING OUTSIDE SCHOOL PREMISES**

Head teachers have a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behavior outside of the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives head teachers the power to regulate pupils’ conduct when they are not on school premises and are not under the lawful control or charge of a member of school staff (this legislation does not apply to independent schools). This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside the local shops, or in a town or village centre. Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it should be investigated and acted on. The head teacher should also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the action taken against a pupil. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a

serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### ***Schools***

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- if bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- a clear account of the incident will be recorded and given to the headteacher (as per our behavior policy)
- the learning mentor or head teacher will interview all concerned and will record the incident
- class teachers will be kept informed
- parents will be kept informed
- punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned.

### ***Pupils***

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- being offered an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a class teacher, learning mentor or member of staff of their choice reassuring the pupil, offering continuous support, restoring self-esteem and confidence.

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- discussing what happened
- discovering why the pupil became involved
- establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil.

Sanctions will be issued as outlined in the whole school behavior policy.

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour. St Paul's CE Primary participates in Anti-Bullying Week each year.

## **PREVENTION**

We will use some or all of the following to help raise awareness of and prevent bullying. As and when appropriate, these may include:

- Writing and implementing a classroom charted
- Signing a behaviour contract
- Using Art, Drama or Music to reinforce awareness

- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or assembly
- Having regular discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Circle time and circle of friends sessions

This policy needs to be read alongside the child-friendly Anti-Bullying Policy.

**REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY**

Signed (Chair of Governors) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Head Teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Review Date</u>
28/09/17	Amended to include up to date legislation, up to date definition of bullying,	Autumn 2018

