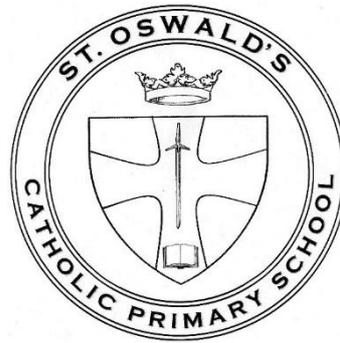


St Oswald's Catholic Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy



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Policy for Anti Bullying

Mission Statement:

This is St Oswald's Catholic Primary School's policy for Anti Bullying and is set within the context of the whole school aims and Mission Statement:

"Together with Jesus, we will learn and grow in faith."

St Oswald's Catholic Primary School accepts the principle that good behaviour and respect for one another is vital and seeks to create this in the school. At St Oswald's we want to encourage an atmosphere and environment where the children feel safe and secure.

We recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than this."

St Mark 12:31

This policy should be read in conjunction with Behaviour & Discipline Policy

Aims of this Policy:

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

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety. This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur. 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 regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

What is Bullying?

Definition: Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, **repeated over time**, that intentionally hurts another individual or group physically or emotionally. Bullying is defined as an action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally.

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly, and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional, being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence.
- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments.
- Homophobic and Gender because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality.
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- Cyber All areas of internet, such as e-mail and internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology i.e. camera and video facilities.

Bullying is not the same as quarrelling- all children will fall out with each other from time to time. This includes rough playground games, which are due to unsuspecting children rather than intentional behaviour.

Note: Not all aggression is bullying, nor all name-calling.

Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be as damaging as physical; teachers and school have to make their own judgements about each specific case using all the information available to them.

Children's behaviour will also be judged as intentional against their age related understanding. The role of school and home is to teach children to understand consequences of their actions.

The role of governors

The governing body 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 headteacher 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.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying.

The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy through the Pastoral and Safeguarding committees. The headteacher ensures that all children know

that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments.

The headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. Children are taught to make the right choices and to follow Gospel values, when children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

The role of the teacher

Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied, they follow the discipline procedures for dealing with the perpetrator.

If a child is being bullied over a period, then the Headteacher or the teacher informs the child's parents. We keep records of all incidents of bullying that occur outside lesson time, either near the school or on the children's way home or to school.

If any adult witnesses an act of bullying, they should report the event 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 punishment and counselling for the child who has carried out the bullying.

Both children will be counselled by either Mrs Hyland or Mrs McKenna our Family Liaison staff.

- 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 headteacher and the special needs coordinator.
- 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 headteacher may contact external support agencies
- Teachers will support all children in their class and establish a climate of trust and respect for all.
- By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

The role of parents/Carers

Parents and carers will be reminded of the definition of bullying, as abuse of the term is likely to cause more upset, which is not helpful to any children.

Parents/carers 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/carers have a responsibility to support the school's ethos, our code of conduct and our anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

We want every child to enjoy learning and playing in St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Agreed in Pastoral Committee