



St Peter's C of E Primary School

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Curriculum Anti-Bullying Policy

St Peter's CE (VA) Primary School

Anti - Bullying Policy



September 2016/17

Mission Statement - Ethos and Values

Our values are informed by the values central to Christianity. We are ambitious- we want each member of the school to discover and realize their true potential in a Christian environment.

Aims:-

We want to be:-

- A school which worships prays and celebrates the love of God wherever it is found.
- A school which challenges, excites and inspires all pupils and staff
- A community to which children, parents, staff and governors feel they belong.
- A school which builds confidence, commitment and respect for each other
- A school which is proud of the culturally diverse community which it serves

Bullying: Our school values and beliefs:

- All pupils have the right to feel happy, safe and included
- Pupils have the right to work in an environment without harassment, intimidation or fear
- **All bullying of any sort, is therefore unacceptable**
- Pupils who experience bullying will be supported
- We recognise the effects that bullying can have on pupils' feelings of worth and their school work and the school community will actively promote an anti-bullying environment.
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Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this policy is to try and prevent and deal with any behaviour deemed as bullying. The implementation of this policy will create an ethos where bullying is regarded as unacceptable so that a safe and secure environment is created for everyone to learn and work in. All members of the school have a responsibility to recognise bullying when it occurs and take appropriate action in accordance with the school policy. This will happen in the following ways:

- The school will meet the legal requirements to have an anti-bullying policy in place.
- The school will work closely with other professional agencies to ensure that children stay safe as stated in the Children and Young Person's Act 2008 and Equality Act 2010.
- A positive, caring ethos will be created within the school environment where everyone can work, play and express themselves, free from the fear of being bullied.
- All Governors, teaching and non teaching staff, pupils, parents/guardians will have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All Governors, teaching and non teaching staff will know what the school policy is on bullying and will consistently and swiftly follow it when bullying is reported.
- All pupils, parents/guardians will know what the school policy is on bullying and what they can do if bullying occurs.

- Pupils, parents/guardians will be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Whole school initiatives (staff training, assemblies, anti bullying week etc.) and proactive teaching strategies such as PSHCE (Personal Social Health & Citizenship Education) and Circle Time will be used throughout the school to reduce the opportunities for bullying to occur.

What is bullying?

The DCSF (Department for Schools & Families) definition of bullying, as defined in the 2007 guidance: Safe to Learn: embedding anti-bullying in schools' is:

'Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.'

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional** – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. taking or hiding someone's things, threatening gestures) ridicule, humiliation
- **Verbal** – name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, making rude remarks, making fun of someone
- **Physical** – pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching or any other forms of violence
- **Racist** – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures, making fun of culture or religion
- **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive or sexist comments
- **Homophobic** – because of/or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- **Online/Cyber** – setting up 'hate websites,' sending offensive text messages, e-mails and abusing the victim via their mobile phones
- **Any other unfavourable or negative comments, gestures or actions made to someone relating to their disability or special educational needs.**

Bullying is NOT:

It is important to understand that bullying is NOT the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional trick or joke is played on someone. Children sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of children's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

Where does bullying happen?

Bullying can happen anywhere – in the classroom, in the corridor, in the toilets, in the dining hall, in the playground and on the way to and from school. In such cases the Headteacher is empowered by law to deal with such incidents but must do so in accordance with the school's policy. At St. Peter's we are concerned with our children's conduct and welfare outside as well as inside school and we will do what we can to address any bullying issues that occur off the school premises.

Steps the school may take:

- Talk to the children about how to handle or avoid bullying outside the school premises
- Discuss safety strategies with parents
- Talk to Head teachers of other schools if their children are involved
- Talk to the Community Police Officers about any problems on the streets

Role of Parents

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy. We ask parents to:

- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone and communicate on a regular basis with the class teacher etc.
- Look out for unusual behaviour in your child for example they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly in the morning, stop eating, begin to under perform at school or not complete work to their usual standard.
- If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform the school immediately. Your concerns will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- If a child has bullied your child, please do not take matters into your own hands by approaching that child on the playground. Please inform the school immediately.
- Tell your child that it is not their fault they are being bullied.
- It is important that you advise your child not to fight back as this can make matters worse.
- Reinforce the school's policy concerning bullying and make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help.
- If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform the school. We can work together to solve the problem.

All parents/guardians will be issued with an informative booklet on dealing with bullying on an annual basis.

Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Bullying Incidents

All staff will respond calmly and consistently to all allegations and incidents of bullying at St. Peter's. Every incident will be taken seriously by all staff and dealt with impartially and promptly. All those involved will have the opportunity to be heard. Staff will protect and support all children involved whilst allegations and incidents are investigated and resolved.

One off incidents will be dealt with in line with the Behaviour Support Policy.

The following step by step procedure will be used for reporting and responding to bullying allegations or incidents:

1. Report all bullying allegations immediately to class teacher or member of the Leadership team. Record incident in class incident book.
2. The victim will be reassured and made to feel safe.
3. Staff will listen and speak to all children involved about the incident separately.
4. The problem will be identified and possible solutions suggested
5. Staff will engage the victim/s and bully/bullies in making choices about how the matter is resolved.
6. Appropriate action will be taken quickly to end the bullying behaviour or threats of bullying.
7. Staff will reinforce to the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable.
8. The bully/bullies will be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences or sanctions may be put in place.
9. Support will be given to help the bully/bullies understand and change his/her behaviour.
10. Where deemed appropriate the Head teacher will invite the parents of the child who is bullying to come into school for a meeting to discuss the problem.
11. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.
12. All incidents of bullying will be recorded on the Southwark Sentinel software and the school's incident book and kept confidentially.

The following sanctions may be used:

- Verbal reprimand by the Headteacher
- Apologise to the victim/s verbally or in writing
- Loss of privileges e.g. playtimes, fun activities in school etc. not essential to the curriculum
- Involving parents where appropriate
- Removal from class for a set period of time
- In more serious cases a fixed term inclusion may be necessary
- In extreme cases a permanent exclusion may be necessary. The local authority Exclusions Policy will be used as guidance in such circumstances

Creating an anti bullying climate in school

Our school's Behaviour Support Policy explains how we promote positive behaviour in school to create an environment where pupils behave well; where pupils take responsibility for each other's emotional and social well being and include and support each other.

Our curriculum will be used to:

- Raise awareness about bullying and our anti bullying policy
- Increase understanding for victims and help build an anti bullying ethos
- Teach pupils to constructively manage their relationship with others
- Know that bullying will not be tolerated

This may be addressed through:

- PHSCE (Personal Health Social Citizenship Education) lessons and use of SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)
- Circle Time, role play and stories
- School Christian Worship Time and assemblies
- Anti Bullying Week (Friendship Week)
- Working with the Learning Mentor in Peter's Place (Pupil Development Centre)
- Use of Playground Buddies
- Praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour
- Encouraging the whole school community to model appropriate behaviour towards one another

Training:

We will provide training for teachers and support staff and midday meal supervisors on spotting the signs of bullying and how to respond.

All children receive information and training on how to respond to being bullied or how to react if they are a witness to bullying every year during National Anti-Bullying Week.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the policy

To ensure this policy is effective, it will be regularly monitored and evaluated by staff and Governors. Questionnaires will be completed on an annual basis by the whole school community. School Council and Playground Buddies will feedback to Senior Management Team on a termly basis. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.