



The Federation of Sacred Heart & St Mary's RC Primary School, Battersea

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

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| Approved By | Governors |
| Reviewed On | October 2024 |
| Review Due | October 2025 |
| Review Cycle | Annually |

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This Policy should be read alongside the ***Behaviour Management Policy 2024***, the ***Relationship and Sex Education Polic2024***, the ***Safeguarding Policy 2024***, and the ***Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)***

Policy Objectives

This policy outlines the Federation's commitment to preventing and tackling bullying in all its forms, in line with DfE guidance, including *Preventing and Tackling Bullying (2017)* and *Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024)* The policy promotes an anti-bullying culture where children, young people, and adults are treated with dignity and respect.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- **Headteachers** to ensure the policy is communicated to all staff, pupils, and parents/carers and that it is consistently implemented.
- **Governors** to monitor and review this policy annually, ensuring it reflects current legislation and DfE guidance.
- **All staff** to support and uphold the policy through consistent action, with proper safeguarding measures in place.
- **Parents/carers** to support their children, working with the school to prevent and tackle bullying.
- **Pupils** to adhere to the policy and work towards a positive school environment.

Nominated Members of Staff Responsible for the Policy: Wale Thomas (PSHE Lead Sacred Heart) and Clío Hunt (PSHE Lead St Mary's)

Nominated Members of Senior Leadership as Point of Contact: Nicola Byrne Sacred Heart and Claire Mitchell at St Mary's.

Designated Safeguarding Leads Sacred Heart: Nicola Byrne (DSL), Jared Brading (Deputy DSL) and Thohomina Chowdhury (Deputy DSL/Senco) Paddy Hourigan (Hilary House Base)

Designated Safeguarding Leads St Mary's: Claire Mitchell (DSL) and Esther Cadden (Deputy DSL)

Named Governors with Lead Responsibility: Andrew Cooper (Co -chair) and Natasha Kulinski

Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy is based on DfE guidance "Preventing and Tackling Bullying" July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2024 and "Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges" guidance. The setting has also read Children's "Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools".

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally harms another physically or emotionally.

This includes:

- **Verbal:** Name-calling, offensive comments
- **Physical:** Kicking, hitting, pushing, taking belongings
- **Emotional:** Exclusion, spreading hurtful rumours
- **Online/Cyberbullying:** Offensive or inappropriate messages or media shared via digital platforms

What Bullying is Not

Conflict or falling out between peers does not automatically constitute bullying. Bullying occurs when actions are deliberate and repeated multiple times, in line with the acronym **S.T.O.P.** – Several Times On Purpose.

Remember “**STOP!**” to decide whether it is bullying or not!

Forms and Types of Bullying

This policy covers all forms of bullying, including but not limited to:

- **Physical bullying** – Hitting, kicking, pushing, or other forms of physical aggression.
- **Emotional bullying** – Spreading rumours, deliberately excluding someone from activities, or making someone feel isolated.
- **Cyberbullying** - Bullying that takes place through digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, online forums, gaming platforms, and other online communication channels. It is clearly defined as:

“The use of technology - -particularly social media, texts, emails, or websites – to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person.”

Cyberbullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school’s Online Safety Policy and national guidelines.

- **Prejudice-based bullying**, including:
 - Bullying related to race, religion, or faith
 - Bullying related to SEND
 - Homophobic, biphobic, or transphobic bullying
 - Bullying of children in care or with caring responsibilities

Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that certain pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Looked-after children
- Young carers
- Children from ethnic minorities or those eligible for free school meals

Signs and Symptoms of Bullying

Adults should be aware of potential signs of bullying, which include but are not limited to:

- Changes in behaviour, such as withdrawal, anxiety, or unexplained injuries
- Reluctance to attend school or engage in social activities
- Sudden drops in academic performance

School Ethos

The Federation promotes an inclusive environment where all forms of bullying are challenged. Our ethos encourages mutual respect and ensures that bullying concerns are dealt with promptly and sensitively. We aim to create a safe, nurturing atmosphere where pupils feel secure and supported.

By effectively preventing and tackling bullying our school can help to create a safe and disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Responding to Bullying Concerns

When a bullying concern is raised, the following steps will be taken:

- The staff member informed will address the issue immediately and involve the appropriate senior leader.
- The school's **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** will be notified of any bullying concerns that may have safeguarding implications.
- Investigations will be conducted promptly, with interviews held for all parties involved.
- Incidents will be recorded on the school's safeguarding system, and parents/carers will be informed as appropriate.

Where the bullying of or by pupils takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including cyberbullying) school may become involved:

- when taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity;
- when travelling to or from school;
- when wearing school uniform; when in some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school;
- that could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school;
- that poses a threat to another pupil; or
- that could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Supporting Pupils

- **Victims of bullying** will be supported through pastoral care, counselling, and involvement in decision-making about the resolution.
- **Pupils engaging in bullying** will be guided towards corrective behaviour through appropriate sanctions, education, and family involvement.

Preventing Bullying

Our school fosters a positive environment through:

- Promotion of Catholic Social Teaching Principles, Gospel Values and Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying initiatives integrated into the curriculum
- Promotion of kindness and respect in all aspects of school life
- Training for staff on recognising and preventing bullying, particularly among vulnerable groups such as pupils with SEND

Involvement of Pupils

Pupil voice is critical to shaping our anti-bullying culture. Pupils are encouraged to report concerns and participate in anti-bullying initiatives, contributing to a safer school environment.

Involvement of Parents and Carers

Parents/carers play a crucial role in supporting the school's anti-bullying efforts. Regular communication and involvement in addressing concerns will be maintained.

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be monitored annually by the **Governors** and **Senior Leadership Team** to ensure its effectiveness and will be updated to reflect changes in legislation and best practices.

Useful Links and Supporting Organisations

Support and resources for pupils, parents, and staff include:

- **Anti-Bullying Alliance:** www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk (a coalition of organisations and individuals in the uk that work together to reduce and prevent bullying in schools and other settings.)
- **Childline:** www.childline.org.uk (a UK-based free, confidential helpline and online service designed to provide support for children and young people up to the age of 19. It offers a safe space where young people can discuss any problems they may be experiencing, including bullying.)
- **Kidscape:** www.kidscape.org.uk (a UK-based charity that focuses on preventing bullying and protecting children from harm. It provides practical support, training, and resources to children, parents, carers, and professionals to help them address and prevent bullying.)
- **MindEd:** www.minded.org.uk (an online educational platform providing free, high-quality resources for professionals, parents, and young people. It focuses on mental health, emotional well-being, and the psychological needs of children, young people, and their families.)
- **NSPCC:** www.nspcc.org.uk (a leading UK charity dedicated to preventing child abuse and protecting children from harm.)

Cyberbullying

- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
- Report Harmful Content: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- DfE 'Cyberbullying: advice for Headteachers and school staff': www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying
- DfE 'Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying':

www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

Made in God's Image is a resource designed to support all those working in the Catholic educational sector to help challenge homophobic and biphobic bullying in our schools:

https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/CES-Project_Homophobic-Bullyinghttps://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/CES-Project_Homophobic-Bullying-Booklet_JUN18_PROOF-9.pdf

Complaints Policy

School will work with parents and pupils to resolve any bullying incidents that may occur. In the rare event that a parent is unhappy with the outcome of school actions they can follow the school complaints procedure.

[Complaints Procedure Policy 2024](#)

All school policies can be found at:

https://www.stmarysschoolbattersea.co.uk/school_policies/ for St Mary's School and

<https://www.sacredheartschoolbattersea.co.uk/school-policies/> for Sacred Heart School.