

ST. CHAD'S C.E.(C) PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

"Building Together for a better future"

Background:

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;
- 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. Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour - or communications - could be a criminal offence, for example under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, and the Public Order Act 1986.

Head teachers have a specific statutory power to discipline pupils for poor behaviour 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 will be investigated and acted on. The head teacher will also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in the 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 will always be informed.

The wider search powers included in the Education Act 2011 give teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by providing a specific power to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones.

Aims

Our school has policies in place to deal with bullying and poor behaviour which are clear to parents, pupils and staff so that, when incidents do occur, they are dealt with quickly.

Our policy aims :

- To reduce and eradicate wherever possible instances in which pupils are subjected to bullying in any form.
- To establish appropriate means of providing after-care should an incident of bullying occur.
- To ensure that all pupils and staff are aware of this policy and fulfil their obligations to it.
- To safeguard the welfare of all staff and pupils at St. Chad's

Definition:

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical; teachers and schools have to make their own judgements about each specific case.

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click.

The values and beliefs underlying this policy are:

- All bullying is unacceptable, regardless of how it is delivered or what excuses are given to justify it.
- The school recognises the detrimental effect on pupils who may be subjected to bullying and will work actively to minimise the risks.
- Both those who are bullied and those who bully will be treated in a supportive manner, rather than being regarded as a burden on staff and peer groups.
- The harmful effect on pupil performance, which may be occasioned by bullying, is recognised and the school is committed to combating all bullying behaviour.

Persons covered by this policy:

The whole school community, including pupils, whether permanently or temporarily on the school roll, will be covered by this policy. The school and the Local Authority treat bullying among their employees as a potential disciplinary matter.

Action to combat bullying:

School tackles bullying by creating an ethos of good behaviour where pupils treat one another and the school staff with respect because they know that this is the right way to behave. Our school values of; respect, honesty, empathy, commitment, belonging, independence and kindness all serve to support our work on anti bullying.

Activities which the school has established in an effort to combat bullying behaviour, include:

- Ensuring all pupils understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they can play to prevent bullying, including when they find themselves as bystanders;
- Ensure that everyone in the whole school community upholds the school values (Honesty, Belonging, Kindness, Empathy, Commitment, Independence, Respect) and the Christian ethos of the school;
- Openly discussing differences between people that could motivate bullying, such as religion, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexuality. Also children with different family situations, such as looked after children or those with caring responsibilities. We also teach children that using any prejudice based language is unacceptable;

- Providing a secure and confidential forum during circle-time to deal with issues surrounding bullying; including reminders given regularly for children to 'TELL'
- Preventative work provided in all areas of the curriculum and particularly in PSHE lessons. Work involving talking to pupils about issues of difference, through dedicated events or projects;
- Raising awareness through assemblies;
- Schools commitment to taking part in 'Anti Bullying Week' every Autumn term;
- School production of anti bullying information ie. pamphlets
- School Councillors supporting pupils who may be victims of bullying;
- Play leaders supporting pupils during lunchtimes;
- Using specific organisations or resources for help with particular problems eg NSPCC
- Recognising the significant impact that 'cyberbullying' can have on an individual and as such the school we seek both to educate and to eliminate those actions that contribute to cyberbullying which include inappropriate texts, e-mail and phone messages;
- All children undertaking an e safety training programme;
- All children, parents, staff, governors and visitors signing an Acceptable Use Agreement;
- Where bullying is proven to be consistently occurring, teachers having a responsibility to intervene by negotiating meetings with the parties concerned and communicating with colleagues who may be affected, the headteacher and parents;
- Consulting with pupils on a regular basis through the School Council, circle time, pupil surveys and pupil consultations, to establish their views and ideas for further development;
- Staff having 'class behaviour logs' each year to note patterns in behaviour. These are retained in school over a period of 5 years, so as to provide evidence at a later date;
- School having 'Record of Discussion' and 'Notice of Concern' proformas so that serious behaviour concerns and meetings can be recorded formally;
- Consulting with parents and having an open door policy when parents have concerns or issues;
- Having parents 'Meet the Headteacher' afternoons so that opportunities are provided for parents to discuss bullying issues;
- Encourage parents to complete questionnaires and evaluations sent home by school;
- Including Health and Safety, Inclusion and Equality items on all meeting agendas;
- Parents forum which meets at least twice per year.
- Using a range of rewards outlined in the school behaviour policy, including the methods of acknowledging good behaviour; Celebrating success is an important way of creating a positive school ethos around the issue.

Individual Responsibilities:

It is important that pupils recognise the difficulties staff may encounter in ensuring that the purpose and intent of the Anti-Bullying Policy can be effectively enforced. In this regard pupils are expected to:

- Report all instances of bullying;
- Act in a respectful and supportive manner to their fellow pupils, reporting any suspected incidents, which the victim may be afraid to report;
- Adhere to and promote the aims and objectives of this statement;
- Refrain at all times from any behaviour which would constitute bullying of fellow pupils.

Parents too can play a vital role:

- Stressing to pupils the importance of sociable behaviour ;
- Reporting any misgivings they have concerning bullying;
- Actively endorsing and supporting Anti-Bullying Policy;

- Being aware and supervising their children using computers, e-mails and mobile phones;
- Signing the Home School Agreement;

The school considers it inappropriate to respond or retaliate with physical violence against an incident of bullying.

Sanctions

Any reported incidents of bullying will be taken seriously. Sanctions will be applied as laid out in the schools behaviour policy.

Incidents of a more serious nature (eg. violence towards staff or other children, continual name calling, intimidation or bullying, swearing, stealing and damaging property) will always be referred to the headteacher or deputy headteacher and some of the following procedures will be carried out:

- *Parents will be informed either by telephone or letter, and will be invited to discuss the issues with the headteacher and class teacher, and hopefully resolve the situation.*
- *A home/school diary may be put in place to monitor the situation.*
- *The headteacher will formally inform parents of the consequences should the situation not improve.*
- *The school may initiate the Special Needs Code of Practice which may involve the work of outside agencies including Behaviour Support and the Educational Welfare Officer.*
- *The Chair of Governors may be informed.*
- *The headteacher has the legal right and option to use a temporary fixed term exclusion.*
- *Should all of these avenues fail, the pupil may be permanently excluded, following Staffordshire County Council guidelines.*

At St Chad's we do consider whether the behaviour under review gives cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Where this may be the case, school staff follow the schools' safeguarding policy. They consider whether continuing disruptive behaviour might be the result of unmet educational or other needs. At this point, school considers whether a multi-agency assessment is necessary.

Pupil conduct outside the school gates

Teachers have a statutory power to discipline pupils for misbehaving outside of the school premises. Section 89(5) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 gives head teachers a specific statutory power to regulate pupils' behaviour in these circumstances "to such extent as is reasonable." (DFE 2012)

At St Chad's, a teacher may discipline a pupil for:-

-any misbehaviour when the child is:

- *taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or*
- *travelling to or from school or*
- *wearing the school uniform or*
- *in some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school or*

-misbehaviour at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, that:

- *could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or*
- *poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public or*
- *could adversely affect the reputation of the school.*

Policy ownership and responsibilities:

Ultimate responsibility for this policy will rest with the headteacher, who will consult with the governing body. The school has a legal responsibility to report termly any incidents of bullying to both the governing body and the LA. This is done through the safeguarding committee who then report to the full governing body termly and annually. However, it is important to remember that all staff, pupils and parents have an active part to play in the development and maintenance of this policy.

Our ultimate aim is to provide a learning environment free of any threat or fear, which will enable us to support the aspirations, achievements and welfare of everyone in the school community. The school seeks to promote excellent relationships between staff and values this. However, we do recognise that on rare occasions in some schools staff have raised concerns about other staff and would therefore refer to the Whistle Blowing Policy.

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