



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BUCKFAST

Anti-Bullying Policy

Statutory duty of schools

Head teachers have a legal duty to draw up procedures to prevent bullying among pupils and to bring these procedures to the attention of staff, parents / carers, and pupils. The policy is based upon the DfE guidance 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying' July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' guidance.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, it is essential that our school:

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

This policy is closely linked with our Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Mission statement.

Principles

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. It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Headteacher to ensure that all members of the school community work within a safe and enabling environment.

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.

Bullying Definition

Bullying is defined as the persistent, intentional harming of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power.

Bullying is, therefore:

- Deliberately hurtful
- Repeated, often over a period

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- Difficult to defend against

Bullying can include:

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- Emotional (being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting)
- Racial (racial taunts, graffiti, gestures)
- Sexual (explicit sexual remarks, inappropriate comments, prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual people)
- Direct or indirect verbal (name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing)
- Online (through social media, networking sites, messaging apps, gaming sites)

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.

Schools' teaching and support staff must be alert to the signs of bullying and act promptly and firmly against it in accordance with school policy. Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in the PSHE curriculum, circle time, assemblies, and subject areas, as appropriate, to eradicate such behaviour.

Responding to bullying

School

All cases of bullying should be reported to the Headteacher or member of Senior Leadership Team.

The following steps will be taken when dealing with incidents:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be acted upon immediately by the member of staff who has been approached
- A clear account of the incident will be recorded on CPOMS (electronic reporting system).
- Parents / carers will be kept informed by the Head teacher
- Support (e.g.counselling, circle time) will be put in place for all concerned following consultation with all parties involved

Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their class teacher/ member of staff of their choice
- Parents/ carers being kept informed
- Reassuring the pupil that the matter is being dealt with and taken seriously.

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- Offering support and involving them in the decision-making process where appropriate.
 - Restoring self-esteem and confidence

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what has happened
- Discovering why the pupil became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- Informing parents or carers to help change the attitude of the pupil

The following sanctions can be taken:

- Exclusion from certain areas of school premises or activities (internal exclusion)
- Fixed-term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion



Children's Anti-Bullying Policy

(reviewed by St Mary's School Council)

We want every child in the school to feel happy. It does not matter who they are, they need to feel that school is a safe place to be.

What is bullying?

Bullying is deliberately hurting someone's feelings or physically hurting someone. This goes on week after week, constantly.

What sorts of bullying are there?

Physical – hurting someone's body.

Emotional – hurting someone's feelings.

Some examples of physical bullying:

Kicking

Smacking

Punching

Slapping

Pushing

Scratching

Chinese burn

Tripping

Throwing things

Pinching

Stamping on people's feet

Biting

Some examples of emotional bullying:

Making fun of someone's family	Being shouted out in your face
Name calling	Giving someone nasty looks
Telling tales	Making fun of someone's clothes
Sending nasty messages	Being ignored on purpose
Online bullying	Talking behind someone's back
Starting rumours	Ganging up on someone
Continually pointing out mistakes	Continuous 'spying' on someone

What might make someone bully someone else?

They think they look tough.

They think they're powerful.

They may have been bullied themselves.

They may be jealous.

They may feel upset or angry.

They may want to impress everyone.

What sort of person could become a victim of bullying?

Anyone could become a victim of bullying – it is not their fault

How do you think a victim feels?

Ill	Tearful
Lonely	Empty
Like no one cares	Scared
Embarrassed	Angry or wants revenge
Depressed	Doesn't want to come to school
Unsafe	

So...what do we do about it?



TELL SOMEONE!

In this school we want you to tell someone – never keep it a secret.

You could tell:

An adult

A friend

A buddy or peer mediator

A school councillor

A prefect

Someone who you trust

Every child in the school should be able to name the person they would talk to if they were being bullied. Once they have spoken to that person, they will tell the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will:

1. Talk to the person who is being bullied to find out what has happened. They will be offered help and support so that they feel safe and know that the bullying will stop.
2. Talk to any witnesses and write down what is said.
3. Talk to the class teacher.
4. Talk to the person who has been bullying to find out what happened. They will be asked to talk about why they have been bullying and given some help them to stop.
5. Parents/carers of the person being bullied and the person who has been bullying, will be spoken to by the head teacher.
6. The head teacher will talk to those involved a week later to make sure that the bullying has stopped.

If the bullying is still carrying on, then the parents/ carers of the person who has been bullying will be asked to come into school for a further meeting and a plan will be made to make sure that the bullying stops.