

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Anti - Bullying Policy 2024-2025

MISSION STATEMENT:

At St. Bernadette's Catholic School you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

Statement of Intent

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. We are a *TELLING* school. This means that *anyone* who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

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”](#) and [“Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges”](#) guidance. The setting has also read Childnet’s [“Cyberbullying: Understand, Prevent and Respond: Guidance for Schools.”](#)

1) Objectives of this Policy

This policy outlines what St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School will do to prevent and tackle bullying. The policy has been drawn up through the involvement of the whole school community and we are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture whereby no bullying, including between adults or adults and children and young people will be tolerated.

2) Our school community:

- Discusses, monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports all staff to promote positive relationships to prevent bullying and will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures that pupils are aware that all bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that pupils feel safe to learn; and that pupils abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Reports back to parents/carers regarding their concerns on bullying and deals promptly with complaints. Parents/ carers in turn work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere and utilises support from the Local Authority and other relevant organisations when appropriate

3) Definition of bullying

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, social media or gaming, which can include the use of images and video) and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.”*

(DfE “Preventing and Tackling Bullying”, July 2017)

Bullying can include: name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments; kicking; hitting; taking belongings; producing offensive graffiti; gossiping; excluding people from groups and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. This includes the same inappropriate and harmful behaviours expressed via digital devices (cyberbullying) such as the sending of inappropriate messages by phone, text, Instant Messenger, through websites and social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading images by mobile phone or via the internet.

4) Forms of bullying covered by this Policy

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including but not limited to:

- Bullying related to physical appearance
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
- Physical bullying
- Emotional bullying
- Sexualised bullying/harassment
- Bullying via technology, known as online bullying or cyberbullying
- Prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics) which may include:
 - Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith
 - Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
 - Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
 - Bullying related to sexual orientation (homophobic/biphobic bullying)
 - Gender based bullying, including transphobic bullying
 - Bullying against teenage parents (pregnancy and maternity under the Equality Act).

5) Preventing, identifying and responding to bullying

The school community will:

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others which will be upheld by all.
- Work with staff and outside agencies to identify all forms of prejudice-driven bullying.
- Actively provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils’ social and emotional skills, including their resilience.

- Provide a range of approaches for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Challenge practice which does not uphold the values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Consider all opportunities for addressing bullying in all forms throughout the curriculum and supported with a range of approaches such as through displays, assemblies, peer support and the school/student council.
- Regularly update and evaluate our approaches to take into account the developments of technology and provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Train all staff including teaching staff, support staff (including administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff to identify all forms of bullying, follow the school policy and procedures (including recording and reporting incidents).
- Proactively gather and record concerns and intelligence about bullying incidents and issues so as to effectively develop strategies to prevent bullying from occurring.
- Actively create “safe spaces” for vulnerable children and young people.
- Use a variety of techniques to resolve the issues between those who bully and those who have been bullied.
- Work with other agencies and the wider school community to prevent and tackle concerns.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

6) Possible Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or "go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong

- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

7) Procedures

- 1) Report bullying incidents to staff. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher should be informed immediately.
- 2) In cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded on the schools MyConcern. Each incident will then be investigated by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher.
- 3) In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
- 4) If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- 5) The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
- 6) An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour by putting in place a programme of support where appropriate.

In addition:

- We report safeguarding issues to their local authority (LA) children's social care
- We report criminal offences to the police
- We investigate and act on bullying outside of school when informed

9) Outcomes

- 1) The bully or bullies will be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place. Parents of both parties will be informed.
- 2) The class teacher will be informed and asked to support the class using the anti-bullying materials we have in school.
- 3) The bully will be dealt with directly by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher and a behaviour program of education will be devised for the bully. All incidents will be recorded.
- 4) In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
- 5) After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

10) Involvement of pupils

We will:

- Regularly canvas children and young people's views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils are aware of the range of sanctions which may be applied against those engaging in bullying.

- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Publicise the details of help lines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying in order to address the problems they have.

11) Liaison with parents and carers

We will:

- Make sure that key information about bullying is available to parents/carers in a variety of formats.
- Ensure that all parents/carers know who to contact if they are worried about bullying.
- Ensure all parents/carers know about our complaints procedure and how to use it effectively.
- Ensure all parents/carers know where to access independent advice about bullying.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.

Parents are directed to a variety of internet sites, should they wish to gain further advice. These may include:

- www.bullying.co.uk
- www.kidscape.org.uk
- www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- **Childline: Calls to [0800 1111](tel:08001111) are free and confidential or [Childline online](https://www.childline.gov.uk).**
- **NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk**

12) Links with other school policies and practices

This Policy links with a number of other school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour policy
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policies
- e-Safety (Online Safety) and Acceptable Use Policies (AUPs)
- Curriculum Policies

13) Links to legislation

There are a number of pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying as well as criminal law. These may include:

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010

- The Children Act 2004
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Communications Act 2003
- Public Order Act 1986
- The Computer Misuse Act 1990

14) Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of:

- School Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.
- Governors, the Headteacher, Senior Leaders, Teaching and Non-Teaching staff to be aware of this policy and implement it accordingly.
- The Headteacher to communicate the policy to the school community and to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably.
- Staff to support and uphold the policy
- Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school
- Pupils to abide by the policy.

Review date: October 2025