

St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy 2023-24

The pupils, staff and governors of St. Peter's Catholic Primary School believe that everyone has the right to learn and work in a safe, positive and calm environment.

This policy sets out the school's understanding of bullying and the way allegations and incidents of bullying will be managed. It should be read in conjunction with the 'Behaviour' and 'Safeguarding and Child Protection' policies.

Bullying

All pupils have the right to be safe and protected from harm, including bullying and harassment of all kinds.

At St. Peter's RC Primary school, we believe bullying is best defined as:

Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, either intentionally or unintentionally hurting another individual or group, physically, socially or emotionally.

There can be many different types of bullying, but these can include:

- Physical - hurting another pupil/pupils or taking/damaging their property without their consent
- Verbal - name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- Cyber-bullying -the use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.
- Indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours

Some forms of bullying are attacks not only on the individual, but also on the group to which he or she may belong. Within school we pay particular attention to:

- Racial harassment and racist bullying
- Sexual bullying & sexting
- The use of homophobic or transphobic language
- Bullying of children who have special educational needs or disabilities

No form of bullying is acceptable and all reports of bullying will always be investigated, recorded and actioned.

Through our Catholic Values and Virtues programme, PSHE and Relationship Education lessons, assemblies and class discussions (such as 'circle times') staff aim to create a culture where bullying is not acceptable and children are secure in what to do if they are the victim of, or witness to, bullying.

Responding to incidents of bullying:

- All staff should feel confident in supporting children who raise concerns about bullying
- Children will always be listened to and be reassured that telling a trusted adult is the right thing to do
- Adults will seek to understand the problem and give children the chance to explain how they feel and what they would like to happen to resolve the issue
- In the first instance the class teacher, or if necessary, a member of SLT (or the Headteacher) will investigate all reports of bullying
- The alleged perpetrator will be spoken with by staff and have the opportunity to explain their views on the situation
- Parents / carers of all children involved will be notified by staff
- Following incidents where bullying is established, the school will implement sanctions from the behaviour policy as appropriate. Support will be given to the child raising the concern. This support will continue as appropriate. The perpetrator will also receive support to understand the consequences of their actions and the expectations of the school
- All incidents will be logged using the school CPOMS system

Child on Child Abuse

In light of the 2021 update to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and the updated KCSIE 2022, the school has reviewed its procedures regarding Child on Child Abuse.

The school has a zero tolerance approach to Child on Child abuse.

The details of how we will manage peer on peer abuse are contained in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, available on the school website.

Our principles are:

- The school will create a culture where we recognise that 'it could happen here' when it comes to child on child sexual abuse
- The school will ensure that all staff are vigilant and take action immediately when they identify that Child on Child Abuse has taken place
- Victims of Child on Child abuse will be listened to and supported
- Child on Child Abuse will never be passed off as 'banter'
- All instances of Child on Child Abuse will be recorded on CPOMS and reported verbally to the DSL / DDSL when urgent

PSHE and RSE

The school has an agreed PSHE curriculum, which includes the modules from Ten:Ten RSE curriculum. This curriculum was shared with parents and carers prior to being adopted and key learning is explained to families in

advance of it being covered in class, to ensure that parents and carers know what is being covered and how best to support their children.

During both of these lessons, pupils will learn about bullying, the types of bullying and the impact that this might have. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that children know how to report bullying and where to get help.

We take part in scheduled events and campaigns such as Anti-bullying week, NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe and Talk Pants.

Bullying and behaviour incidents that happen outside the school premises

Schools have the power to sanction pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school premises to such an extent as is reasonable.

The school will follow DFE guidance 'Behaviour in Schools 2022'

Conduct outside the school premises, including online conduct, that schools might sanction pupils for include misbehaviour:

- 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.

Behaviour incidents online:

- Negative interactions online can damage the school's culture and can lead to school feeling like an unsafe place
- The same standards of behaviour are expected online as apply offline, and everyone should be treated with kindness, respect and dignity
- Inappropriate online behaviour including bullying, the use of inappropriate language, the soliciting and sharing of nude or semi-nude images and videos and sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the same principles as offline behaviour

Parents / Carers are responsible for the behaviour of their children while they are at home, but the school will act (including the implementation of sanctions, up to and including permanent exclusion) where behaviour off-site, or online, negatively impacts the wellbeing or welfare of pupils. Where a criminal offence has been carried out, the school will report this offence to the Police and support them with appropriate inquiries.

SEND

We understand that pupils with SEND might need additional support to keep themselves safe from bullying. These pupils might not always be able to communicate when they are the victims of bullying and might not always understand when bullying is happening. For these reasons, the school will be proactive in making sure we are additionally vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying and 'checking in' with these pupils.

Physical Environment

The school's environment plays a vital part in setting high expectations and ensuring children from all social, cultural and religious backgrounds feel valued. This includes:

- School/classrooms being kept tidy and free from clutter
- Displaying resources that set out the school's expectations for behaviour, the values we seek to reward and the attitudes to learning we wish to develop.
- Ensuring high quality displays of children's work across all ability ranges to promote high expectations
- Careful consideration of where individuals sit and who they sit next to
- High quality teaching resources, visually stimulating and adequate in quantity

How we work with parents

As a school, we understand the importance of working proactively with parents and carers. Families know that they can raise concerns with school staff, including the Headteacher and Parent Support Adviser (PSA). When concerns are raised, we ensure that we keep families informed and appropriately involved in the process and the resolution.

It is important that we share our culture with parents and carers, so that they understand the behaviour that we expect from their children and this includes our view of bullying. Parents and Carers are key in monitoring and supporting appropriate behaviour between pupils online at home and we actively share information to help keep children safe.

How we work with pupils

Through the work of the school council, pupils have had the opportunity to contribute to this policy. Teachers and the senior leadership team will regularly speak with pupils and take their views into account when managing incidents and preparing teaching relating to bullying; and relationships more widely.

Recording and reviewing incidents of bullying

All confirmed or alleged incidents of bullying are recorded on CPOMS. The actions and outcomes relating to incidents are also recorded, including the use of the school behaviour system - Amber and Red cards. These records are reviewed half-termly by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with the intention of identifying trends and ensuring good practice in managing incidents of this type.

We recognise that bullying may be an indication of wider safeguarding or child protection issues and so monitor this closely.

Every term, the school reports the number of safeguarding incidents, including incidents of bullying to our academy trust, Plymouth CAST. Our trust safeguarding lead and school improvement officer support us in tracking and monitoring these behaviours to ensure that we are managing incidents appropriately.

Date reviewed and adopted: 16.10.23
Date of next review: Autumn term 2024
Headteacher: Mrs Esther Archer