

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

GROWING IN FAITH

*Our vision at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School
and all we do, and aspire to be,
is centred on the love, life and teaching of Jesus,
and rooted in the faith of the Catholic Church.*

AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE

*Our aim is to build a loving, happy, safe and welcoming school where
everyone has the opportunity and support to recognise, celebrate and
develop
their God given gifts and talents, learning in a creative and friendly school
family.*

LEARNING FOR LIFE

*Journeying together with each other,
we work in harmony
to provide outstanding Catholic Education
for all our pupils preparing them to fulfil their mission
to the world in which we live.*

Policy Adopted: 17 November 2020

To be reviewed: November 2022

This policy is correct as at the date of the policy. However, any information documented within may be superseded by any new information received from the LA or the Diocese after the date of the policy and which will be automatically adopted with immediate effect.

SCHOOL ETHOS

The School recognises its foundation in the Catholic Church and aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Catholic belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Our intention is to provide a happy caring environment in which an individual child can learn to value excellence, achieve his/her potential and discover for themselves a genuine delight in learning.

Criminal law

Although bullying itself is not a criminal offence in the UK, it is important to bear in mind that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour - or inappropriate use of information and communication technologies could become a criminal offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003 and Public Order Act 1986. For example, under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, it is an offence to send an electronic communication to another person with intent to cause distress or anxiety or to send an electronic communication which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Rational

That every child has the right to feel safe in school and enjoy their education without the threat of bullying behaviour. Our approach is to build the children's self-esteem and confidence and for our approach to be consistent across the school. We intend that the policy is clearly understood and shared by all, children, staff and parents.

The anti bullying policy takes its place within the general aims of the school. It has close links to the Behaviour, Child Protection, Diversity and Equality and EPR policies.

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School's definition of bullying is:

Bullying is on-going, deliberate behaviour that upsets the victim. It is any behaviour that is targeted and selective. It can be direct physical (e.g. pushing, hitting, kicking, theft, damage to personal property), verbal (e.g. name calling, spreading rumours, constantly putting a person down) or indirect (e.g. being ignored, cyber bullying which includes the use of texts, emails, tweets or social media such as Facebook to make a comment or post pictures).

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School Procedure:

The following is a list of actions available to staff depending on the perceived seriousness of the situation. The emphasis is always on a caring, listening approach as bullies are often victims too - that is why they bully.

If bullying is suspected we will:

- Talk to the suspected victim, and any witnesses individually.
- Identify the bully and talk about what has happened, to discover why they became involved. Make it clear that bullying is not tolerated.
- If the bully owns up then sanction procedures will be followed
- Incidents of bullying are recorded in the School Incident Log and kept in the Head Teachers office
- Consistently use Restorative Justice procedures with all children.
- Keep an informal log of incidents if there are concerns
- Involve all parties together to discuss the issues
- Allow children time to sort things out.
- Support & empower children to resolve the conflict & understand their role in the issues
- Establish an agreement between the children where needed
- Inform parents

- On-going follow up to ensure the victim feels secure and safe and the bully is able to control their behaviour with further discussion and support with individuals as and when appropriate
- When necessary support children individually or together
- If the incidents persist and are causing a health and safety issue then the Head Teacher could instigate exclusion procedures

Prevention & strategies to reinforce St Catherine's Policy on Anti-bullying:

- Anti bullying week
- Children are made aware of the strategies to deal with low level issues and what to do in different situations including situations of cyber-bullying.
- Children participate in role play work in class as part of the EPR programme
- Making use of curriculum opportunities to raise pupil awareness e.g. through RE, cross curricula themes, drama, story writing and literature
- A whole school reward system
- Good quality role models
- Adult modelling of appropriate response to a wide range of scenarios
- Children & parents have a good knowledge of the procedure/policy
- Children have a clear understanding of their rights & responsibilities
- E-safety frequently discussed and taught
- Use of Play Leaders
- Adults to deal with a situation, even if minor. Talking to the children may prevent the situation escalating.
- Classroom rules on bullying and behaviour could link to children understanding their rights and responsibilities.

The role of governors

- The governing body supports the Head Teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors about the effectiveness of school's anti-bullying policy.
- If a parent is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident, they should follow the school complaints procedure by initially contacting the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the Head Teacher. If they are still concerned, they should contact the Governing Body via clerk.

The role of the Head Teacher

- It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to implement the school Anti-bullying Policy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and nonteaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The Head Teacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.
- The Head Teacher ensures that all children know that bullying is unacceptable behaviour.
- The Head Teacher ensures that all staff, including midday supervisors, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- The Head Teacher leads the school in making our vision a reality, where all members of the learning community nurture, value, respect and care for each other.

The role of all staff

- All forms of bullying are taken seriously, and proactive measures are taken to prevent it from taking place.
- All adults to deal with situations quickly and by using Restorative Justice methods to prevent situations escalating.
- All adults to follow up what they have said e.g. keeping an eye, follow up discussion etc.
- Teachers are responsible for recording of all incidents of bullying that happen in their class, and that they are aware of in the school. If a child is being bullied or is bullying others, the class teacher will inform the child's parents and the Head Teacher.
- There is an anti-bullying proforma in which staff record all incidents of bullying that occur both in and out of class. The school also record incidents that occur near the school, or on the children's way between school and home, that we are aware of. All adults who witness an act of bullying should record it on the proforma. This will be kept in the Head Teacher's office.
- When any bullying taking place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately including counselling and support for both the victim and perpetrator of the bullying.
- All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.
- A range of methods are used to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all.

The role of parents

Parents have an important part to play in our anti-bullying policy. We ask parents to:

- Look out for unusual behaviour in your children - for example, they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their usual standard.
- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with, etc.
- If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform school immediately. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- If a child has bullied your child, please do not approach that child on the playground or their parents or involve an older child to deal with the bully.
- Please inform school immediately and we will deal with it following the school procedures.
- It is important that you advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse!
- Tell your child that it is not their fault that they are being bullied.
- Reinforce the school's policy concerning bullying and make sure your child is not afraid to ask for help.
- If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform school. The matter will be dealt with appropriately. Remember incidents are confidential, do not discuss them with other parents on the playground. Speak to school staff if you have concerns.
- Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, by actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.
- If a parent is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident, they should follow the school complaints procedure by initially contacting the class teacher. If the concern remains, they should contact the Head Teacher. If they are still concerned, they should contact the Governing Body via the clerk.

The role of children

What Can Children Do If They Are Being Bullied?

- Each term or when incidents occur, class teachers will discuss bullying and reinforce the following strategies:
- Remember that your silence is the bully's greatest weapon.
- Tell yourself that you do not deserve to be bullied and that it is wrong.
- Be proud of who you are. It is good to be individual.
- Try not to show that you are upset or scared. It is hard, but a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- Stay with a group of friends/people. There is safety in numbers.

- Be strong inside - say "No!". Walk confidently away. Go straight to a teacher or member of staff.
- If you are getting emails, texts or messages that make you feel uncomfortable please save them and show them to an adult. Do not respond to them.
- Fighting back may make things worse - don't do it.
- Generally it is best to tell an adult you trust straight away. You will get immediate support.
- Teachers will take you seriously and will deal with the bullies in a way which will end the bullying and will not make things worse for you.

What do you do if You Know Someone Is Being Bullied?

- Take action! Watching and doing nothing looks as if you are on the side of the bully. It makes the victim feel more unhappy and on their own.
- Tell an adult immediately. Teachers will deal with the bully without getting you into trouble.
- Do not take direct action yourself.

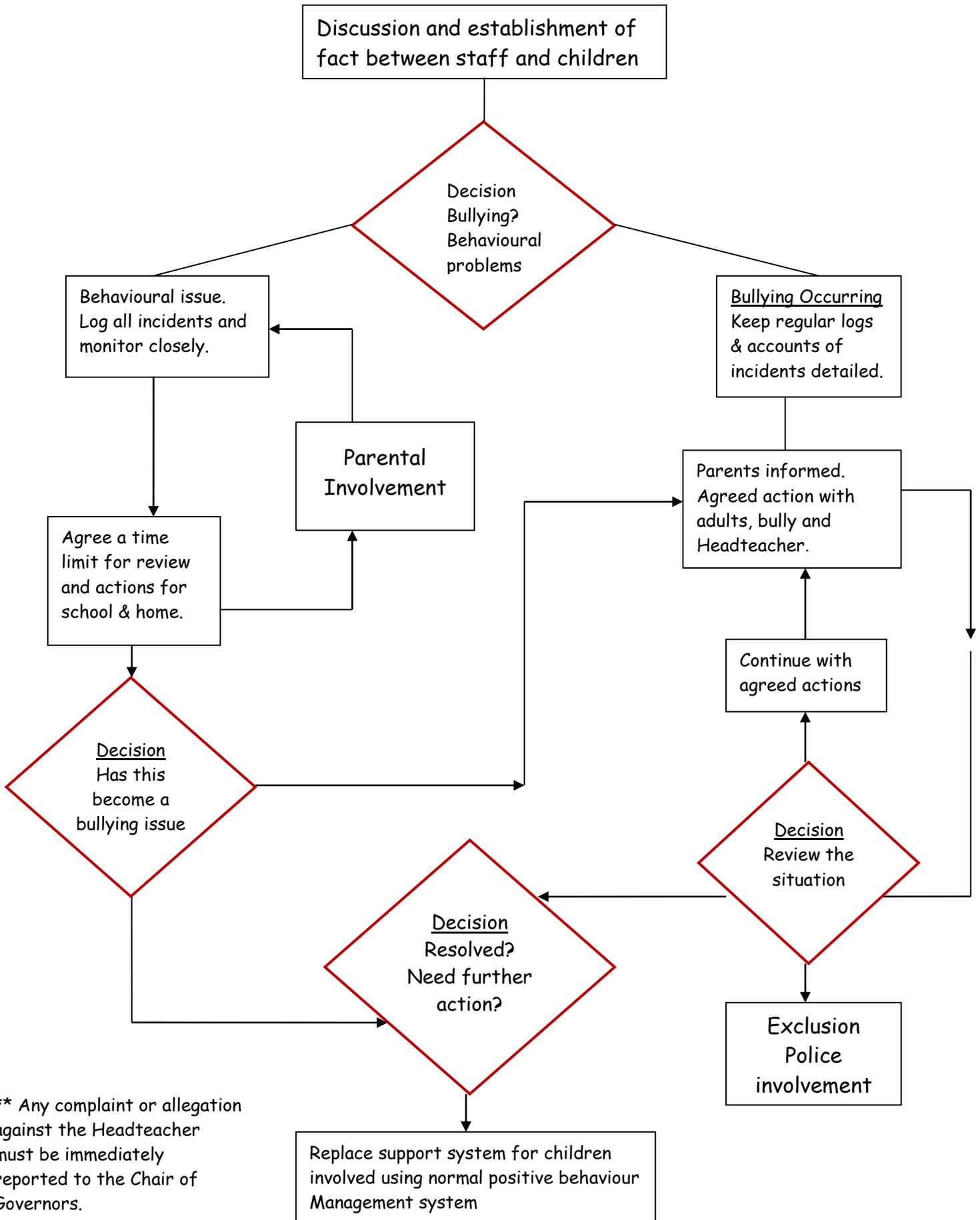
Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Head Teacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the Head Teacher. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's review cycle, or earlier if necessary.

WHEN BULLYING IS REPORTED



** Any complaint or allegation against the Headteacher must be immediately reported to the Chair of Governors.