

St Vincent De Paul R.C. Primary School, Knutsford

Mission Statement:

"It is the mission of this Catholic School to enable our children to become aware of the world that God has given them and to recognise their vocation and responsibilities within it."



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Policy Date: October 2016

Review Date: October 2017



Introduction

Bullying is action taken by one or more individuals with the deliberate intention of hurting another individual, either physically or emotionally.

Aims and objectives

Bullying is wrong and damages individuals. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.

We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety.

This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.

We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

The role of Governors

The governing body supports the Head Teacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the Head Teacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti bullying strategies.

The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the Head Teacher and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

The role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy and know how to 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 wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Head Teacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Head Teacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.

The Head Teacher ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.

The Head Teacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

The role of the Teacher

Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in the school.

If teachers witness an act of bullying, they do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Head Teacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.

We log incidents of bullying behaviour of pupils in our classes and report to the Head Teacher appropriately.

If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the Head Teacher and the special needs co-ordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the Head Teacher may contact external support agencies such as the social services.

Teachers routinely attend training, which enables them to become equipped to deal with incidents of bullying and behaviour management.

Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying – see Behaviour Policy.

The role of Parents

Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately.

Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

The role of Pupils

Pupils discuss their role in supporting the School's Anti-bullying Policy through the School Council, class discussion and through pupil questionnaires.

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored regularly by the Head Teacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

Dealing with Racist Incidents

Any racist incidents are dealt with seriously and advice from the LA is followed in accordance with the 'Recording of Racist Incidents' August 2016. A Racist Incident Monitoring Form will be completed and filed. A Racist Incident Annual Return Form will be completed and submitted at the end of the academic year.

This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying records, and by discussion with the Head Teacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in bullying incidents.

Person responsible: Head Teacher

Date: Oct 2016

Next Review Date: Oct 2017