



# Sacred Heart Catholic College

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## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Governors
<b>Approved by:</b>	Premises Health and Safeguarding
<b>Date approved:</b>	February 2021
<b>Next review due by:</b>	February 2022

## **Rationale**

All pupils have the right to an education free from bullying of any kind. We believe that all members of our school community should be able to learn and achieve their full potential in a safe, secure and caring environment in which everyone is treated with respect, as reflected in our school's mission statement. The school will adopt a pro-active approach to the identification, eradication and prevention of bullying, both at school and during school related activities. All members of the school community, pupils, parents, guardians and staff, teaching and non-teaching, should be made aware of the nature of bullying, how to identify it and the procedures to deal with it.

This policy has been drawn up through the involvement of the whole school.

## **A definition of bullying**

There is no legal definition of bullying. Bullying is usually described as being behaviour by an individual or group, usually 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 or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences.

Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is our first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical.

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual' bullying, which can occur in or outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying and can happen at all times of the day, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content at a click. Schools have wider search powers included in the Education Act 2011 to give teachers stronger powers to tackle cyber-bullying by providing a specific power to search for and, if necessary, delete inappropriate images (or files) on electronic devices, including mobile phones. Homophobic bullying occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) people. (See ref: DCSF Homophobic bullying)

Where bullying outside school is reported to school staff, it will be investigated and acted on. The Headteacher will also consider whether it is appropriate to notify the police or anti-social behaviour coordinator in their local authority of the action taken against a student. If the misbehaviour could be criminal or poses a serious threat to a member of the public, the police should always be informed.

## **Bullying can be:**

- physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- teasing
- making threats
- verbal (name calling, racist remarks)
- indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)

All staff are made aware of the school's policy on bullying through in-house inset, and School Website.

All pupils are made aware of the school's policy through Form Time and School Website.

We work with staff and outside agencies to identify all forms of prejudice-driven bullying. Parents are informed of the school's policy through the school's website.

- The PSHE and Citizenship Programme includes the topic of Bullying from Year 7 onwards. Other subjects incorporate Bullying into the lessons.
- These lessons actively provide systematic opportunities to develop pupil's social and emotional skills, including their resilience.
- Pupils are regularly reminded of the school's position with regard to bullying and the message is reinforced at assemblies and in tutorial time.
- There is regular supervision of areas of the school during breaks and lunch times.
- All staff are asked to report any signs or suspicions of Bullying to Head of Year, Director of school or any senior member of staff. Form Tutors should also always be informed.
- Pupils are regularly reminded that they can speak to any member of staff about any kind of bullying, involving themselves or others, and that they will always be listened to.

### **The need for gathering evidence**

If we are to deal with incidents fairly, we must gather as much evidence as possible in order to establish what really happened.

All incidents of bullying are treated seriously and are dealt with and investigated immediately by the appropriate member of staff.

How we deal with incidents that cross the inside/outside school boundaries

Where incidents that happen outside school are clearly having a detrimental effect on the life of the school we will investigate these and, in conjunction with the parents and the local police, take appropriate action.

Parents of the victim(s) and those of the bully (ies) are contacted.

Procedures following any incidents of bullying will include support for the victim as a priority. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, as well as counselling for both parties and meetings with parents.

### **Links with other Policies**

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

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Behaviour Policy

## **To Pupils**

If you are part of a group which makes someone else feel ashamed, unhappy or afraid, you are involved in bullying.

How can you help stop bullying?

- Speak up for someone who needs support, e.g. 'you can come and sit with us.'
- Tell someone. By not telling, you are helping the person doing the bullying.  
***Bullies rely on people not telling.***
- There is always someone to tell:  
A member of your family  
Your Form Tutor  
Your Year Head  
Your Director Of School Classroom assistant, mentors School Nurse  
The Deputy Headteacher, The Headteacher, The College Safeguarding Officers.
- If you feel afraid to tell you can: Ask a friend to go with you. Ask a friend to speak for you.
- Ask a member of your family to contact your Form Tutor or Head of Year.

## **How can Parents/Guardians help?**

If you suspect your child or another pupil is being bullied:

- Please inform the school straight away. Don't leave it, hoping things will improve. It may get worse. Bullies rely on people not telling.
- Give your son/daughter a chance to talk.

## **Some possible signs of bullying:**

- Reluctance to go to school
- More withdrawn or easily upset at home
- Loss of confidence
- Deterioration in school work
- Lateness to school/arriving home late

Do not assume it is bullying; all of these could have a number of other causes, e.g. falling out with friends, worries about school work, family problems.

## **Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the whole school community to ensure that Bullying is not tolerated and that everyone understands that steps will be taken to both prevent and respond to bullying.

- School Governors will take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy
- Governors, the Head teacher, Senior Managers, Teaching and non-teaching staff to be aware of this policy and implement it accordingly.
- Pupil to abide by this policy.

## **Supporting Organisations and Guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

- Anti-Bullying Alliance: [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)
- Beat Bullying: [www.beatbullying.org](http://www.beatbullying.org)
- Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- DfE: “Preventing and Tackling Bullying. Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies”, and “Supporting children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools “March 2014: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventingand-tackling-bullying>
- DfE: “No health without mental health”: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-health-without-mental-health-across-government-outcomes-strategy>
- Family Lives: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)
- Kidscape: [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)
- MindEd: [www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk)
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- PSHE Association: [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)
- Restorative Justice Council: [www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)
- The Diana Award: [www.diana-award.org.uk](http://www.diana-award.org.uk)
- Victim Support: [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
- Young Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- Young Carers: [www.youngcarers.net](http://www.youngcarers.net)

## **Cyberbullying**

- Childnet International: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
- Digizen: [www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)
- Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
- Think U Know: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
- UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## **LGBT**

- EACH: [www.eachaction.org.uk](http://www.eachaction.org.uk)
- Pace: [www.pacehealth.org.uk](http://www.pacehealth.org.uk)
- Schools Out: [www.schools-out.org.uk](http://www.schools-out.org.uk)
- Stonewall: [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

## **SEND**

- Changing Faces: [www.changingfaces.org.uk](http://www.changingfaces.org.uk)
- Mencap: [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)
- DfE: SEND code of practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

## **Racism and Hate**

- Anne Frank Trust: [www.annefrank.org.uk](http://www.annefrank.org.uk)
- Kick it Out: [www.kickitout.org](http://www.kickitout.org)
- Report it: [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)
- Stop Hate: [www.stophateuk.org](http://www.stophateuk.org)
- Show Racism the Red Card: [www.srtrc.org/educational](http://www.srtrc.org/educational)