



Anti-Bullying Policy February 2020



- Article 19** You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.
- Article 36** You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).
- Article 37** No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.
- Article 39** You have the right to help if you've been hurt, neglected or badly treated.

All Catholic schools in Scotland, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics.....

- a commitment an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God.



Policy Statement

This Anti-Bullying Policy links closely with our Policy to Promote Positive Behaviour. It was updated in February 2019 following consultation with all staff, the Pupil Council, the Anti-bullying Group and the Parent Council.

The purpose of this policy is to reduce, prevent and respond effectively to bullying behaviour.

The policy helps everyone in our school community to know what bullying is and how to take immediate action to stop it.

At St. Peter's R.C. Primary School we are committed to challenging all types of prejudice-based bullying and language. We refer to guidance from The Equality Act 2010, the Curriculum for Excellence and Getting It Right For Every Child.

Definition of bullying behaviour

“Bullying is both behaviour and impact: the impact is on a person’s capacity to feel in control of themselves. This is what we term as their sense of ‘agency’. Bullying takes place in the context of relationships: it is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out. This behaviour happens face to face and online.” (Respectme, 2015)

Bullying is a breach of Children’s Rights. Article 19 states that it is every child’s right not to be bullied.

“A right is a basic need, rather than an entitlement or expectation. Children need to be protected from bullying behaviour so that they can survive, develop and participate in a fulfilling life. Bullying is a breach of Children’s Rights.”

Rationale

In St. Peter's School we do not tolerate verbal or non-verbal bullying behaviour. We act swiftly to deal with any incidents where a child or member of staff feels threatened by words, actions or attitude of any person in any area of the school or playground. We believe that everyone is equal and has the right to be treated with respect. Our school aims reflect our commitment to

- Maintaining a secure environment
- Welcoming and caring for all children
- Promoting justice and peace
- Supporting mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- Maintaining discipline with dignity

Our words, actions and attitudes mirror the Gospel values of trust, respect, tolerance, honesty, generosity and forgiveness.

We recognise that bullying takes many forms and can be

Physical

- Deliberately hurting by hitting, kicking, pulling, pushing, tripping, scratching another person, invading personal space.

Verbal

- saying hurtful things about another person
- making fun of accents
- shouting
- deliberately embarrassing someone
- spreading rumours/lies
- demanding money
- scaring someone by threatening them

Emotional

- forcing people to do things they don't want to do
- making someone go somewhere against their wishes
- leaving people out
- deliberately forming exclusive clubs
- using language/gestures in a way that makes others feel insecure

Cyberbullying

- bullying that takes place using electronic technology e.g. mobiles, computers and tablets to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person
- Examples of cyberbullying – mean text messages or emails, rumours, embarrassing pictures, videos or fake profiles posted on social media sites, text messages, Instagram, Snapchat or other websites. People use these devices to bully others

Prejudice Related Bullying

- Derogatory and discriminatory language and behaviour which could be perceived as being racist, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic and disablist in nature.

Preventing Bullying

All teaching staff and Pupil Support Assistants are well-trained and work as a team, communicating concerns. They are vigilant and proactive, supporting vulnerable pupils.

Pupils are supervised in all areas of the school playground. At playtime, Pupil Support Assistants move around all parts of the playground so that they have an overview of all activities. The head teacher and depute headteacher regularly spend time in the playground to monitor behaviour.

We have a buddy system for all new pupils. A group of P7 pupils are 'Playground Pals' who support all our infant pupils. They help them to learn playground routines and they show them how to access help. Other new pupils are buddied with a child in their own class.

Playground games are organised and a range of toys is available so that each child can be active at playtime. Russell Anderson Development School coaches are in the playground on Tuesdays and Thursdays to support good teamwork through football skills. All pupils have learned how to use Loose Parts play materials safely to develop creativity and inclusion.

Within the curriculum, Health and Wellbeing lessons and Circle Time activities and discussions provide opportunities for children to

- learn about bullying and
- actions to take if they are bullied themselves or observe others being bullied

Posters are displayed in every classroom to remind pupils that bullying is not tolerated. Bullying is the theme of at least one assembly each session and all children participate in the annual Anti-Bullying Week.

The prefects meet with the head teacher each Monday afternoon to report playground incidents and highlight concerns. Positive behaviour is also recognised in these meetings and at assemblies.

Dealing with Bullying

1. Any pupil who feels he/she has been bullied is encouraged to report it immediately to a trusted adult in school or at home. The staff member or parent should then contact the head teacher or depute headteacher so that the incident can be investigated.
2. There is one prefect in each class. Prefects wear their badges at all times. Children can report concerns about bullying to them. The prefects will inform the headteacher at the earliest opportunity.
3. As part of the investigation, the headteacher speaks to all pupils involved. Parents are contacted by telephone and meetings are arranged as necessary.

4. After speaking to parents and staff an action plan will be drawn up. Pupils who bully others will stay inside at lunchtime for an agreed period of time. Appropriate tasks will be set which, according to the age and ability of the child, may include writing a letter of apology.
5. Appropriate action is agreed to prevent future bullying. This may include counselling the pupil and arranging 1:1 or small group work with a member of staff to explore why the bullying occurred and how it can be prevented.
6. The headteacher keeps a record on SEEMIS of all incidents of bullying, detailing meetings with pupils, contact with parents, communication with staff and action taken.

Supporting the Victims of Bullying

- Children are reassured that incidents are dealt with seriously
- Pupil Support Assistants, who supervise all areas of the playground, monitor the behaviour of the children involved and are proactive in noticing if they seem withdrawn or afraid.
- Older pupils are nominated as playground buddies to be there to listen to pupils' concerns.
- Leaflets from Childline and Respect are made available and details of helplines and websites shared.
- If necessary, following discussion with parents, referrals may be made to partner agencies including the Educational Psychologist or the school doctor.

Monitoring

- Behaviour is a standing item for discussion at each staff meeting (teachers' meetings and PSA meetings).
- The headteacher records all reported incidents of bullying and communicates relevant information in a timely and proportionate manner to staff supporting the children involved.
- Data is collected and analysed at least once per term to learn lessons about frequency, location and pupils involved. This informs our interventions to prevent future incidents of bullying.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in November 2021 following consultation with pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.