



ST. MARK'S CE SCHOOL
ONE SCHOOL - SERVING ALL - THROUGH EXCELLENCE

St Mark's CE School

Anti-Bullying Policy

Policy Statement and Guidelines

Policy Date: Spring 2024

Review Date: Spring 2025

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and will not be tolerated. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. We are committed to providing a safe, friendly environment in which our children can learn. If bullying does occur, all pupils should feel able to tell somebody.

All organisations and adults who work with children and young people have a duty of care and must take reasonable steps to ensure their safety . Head teachers have specific statutory powers to discipline pupils for poor behaviour outside of school premises (Section 89 of the Education and inspections Act 2006) This can relate to any bullying incidents occurring anywhere off the school premises, such as on school or public transport, outside local shops , or in a town or village centre. Where bullying that occurs outside of the premises is reported to school , it will be investigated and acted on.

If children are worried about bullying on their journey to and from school they are less likely to choose healthier travel options, such as walking or cycling to school, and fears around using public transport may restrict their access to positive activities. It may also lead to their parents /carers driving them to and from school. Thereby increasing local congestion.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the **persistent** or **repetitive** behaviour which is **intended** to cause hurt and distress to another person.

Bullying comes in many forms and could be:

Emotional – Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, and threatening gestures.

Physical – Kicking, hitting, pushing, punching or any use of violence.

Racism – Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.

Sexual – Unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature which may include indecent suggestive remarks, inappropriate touching, requests or demands, indecent gestures drawings or ‘jokes’ and the circulation of obscene material.

Verbal – Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours and teasing.

Homophobic – because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality

Cyber – All areas of internet usage, such as email, internet chat rooms misuse. Threats via mobile phones including camera and video. Tips to remember around internet usage are: Always respect others, think before you send, treat your password as a secret, block anybody you suspect of bullying, do not be tempted to retaliate, save the evidence, make sure you tell someone .

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he/she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of possible signs e.g

- Is afraid to walk to and from school
- Doesn't want to go to school
- Changes to usual routines/ eating patterns
- Becomes anxious or withdrawn
- Cries themselves to sleep
- Deterioration in quality of school work
- Has possessions which are damaged or missing
- Signs of self – harm
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Asks for money

These could all be an indication of other problems but bullying should be considered a possibility and investigated.

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Should you be concerned about your child and issues around bullying the following procedure should be followed

1. Incidents of bullying should be reported to a member of staff as soon as possible & will be investigated further that day (providing it is reported whilst children are in school If not this will be the following school day)
2. A record will be kept of reported incidents and parents will be notified that day.
3. The bullying behaviour or threats will be investigated thoroughly.
4. The children involved will be helped to change their behaviour
5. In serious cases parents will be asked to attend a meeting once the incident has been investigated in order for us to work together to ensure all of the children involved feel supported.
6. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with , each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place

In order for school & parents to address incidents of bullying it is essential that we work together respectfully and sensitively. Our aim is that all of our children feel happy and safe.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns about your child

Tel : 02380 772968

Alternatively for help & advice:

Childline Tel: 0800 1111 /www.childline.org.uk

Kidscape Tel: 020 77303300

