

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

Anti- Bullying Policy



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Mission statement

This school is committed to creating and sustaining a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all pupils, staff and parents/carers.

We believe that all pupils, staff and parents/carers have the right to be protected from bullying and abusive behaviour.

Who the policy applies to

This policy was developed and is reviewed and monitored through consultation with the whole school community and applies to all members of that community. Members of the school community are:

Pupils

Teachers (both permanent and supply teachers, and specialist teachers e.g. for music, dance and drama)

Teaching Assistants

Behavioural Support Assistants

The school counsellor/s

The school nurse

Office Staff

School librarian/s

Playground supervisors

Canteen staff

Caretakers

Science and DT laboratory technicians

Parents/carers

School Governors

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This policy aims to ensure that all those connected with the school are protected from bullying behaviour and reduce the number of pupils who experience bullying through increasing awareness of this behaviour, its causes and consequences in the pupils, staff, parents and carers who make up the school community. The policy aims to ensure that individual cases of bullying will be dealt with consistently and in a constructive and fair manner when they occur. Procedures for dealing with bullying are clearly set out so that all members of the school community know what they can expect from the school and what the school expects of them, with regard to bullying.

What is bullying?

There are many different definitions of bullying in use, however most agree that the key factors that make behaviour bullying, as opposed to "having a laugh", venting frustration or a non-bullying incident of physical or verbal violence/aggression are: repetition of behaviour, systematically undermining a person over a period of time; and an imbalance of power between the person on the receiving end of the bullying and the person or persons doing the bullying.

It is a good idea to use a definition that has been developed in consultation with representatives of all sectors of the school community. Below is an example of how such a definition might read.] Bullying is when one or more people physically, emotionally or psychologically hurt or cause harm to a person who is in a weaker position than him/her/them, and so is less able to defend himself/herself. Bullying usually happens over a period of time, and consists of a series of different incidents.

Different types of bullying include:

- **Physical** - hitting, kicking, spitting, tripping someone up, stealing/damaging someone's belongings, etc.
- **Verbal** - name-calling, insulting a person's family, threats of physical violence, spreading rumours, constantly putting a person down.
- **Emotional/psychological** - excluding someone from a group, humiliation.
- **Racist** - insulting language/gestures based on a person's actual or perceived ethnic origin or faith, name-calling, graffiti, racially motivated violence.
- **Sexual** - sexually insulting language/gestures, name-calling, graffiti, unwanted physical contact.
- **Homophobic** - insulting language/gestures based on a person's actual or perceived sexuality, name-calling, graffiti, homophobic violence.
- **Electronic/Cyber** - bullying by text message, bullying on the internet (in chat rooms, on bulletin boards and through instant messaging services), hate websites.

Bullying is the abuse of power by one person over another. All types of bullying are unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the school

How we handle bullying at St Anthony's School

When bullying is reported it will be taken seriously.

- Staff will work with the young person who is being bullied to help them feel safe and find responses to bullying that work.
- Staff will work with the young person or people who are bullying to change the bullying behaviour.
- Wherever possible, staff will work with the parents/carers of any student who is being bullied to support and encourage that student in finding solutions to the bullying.
- Wherever possible, staff will work with the parents/carers of any student who is bullying to support and encourage that student in finding alternatives to the bullying behaviour.

- Staff will try to involve staff from outside agencies (e.g. Connexions, the area Youth Offending Team, etc.) in supporting pupils who are experiencing bullying or who are bullying.
- Excluding pupils from school is a last resort. If particularly serious victimisation, abuse and intimidation, or physical bullying against any other person belonging to the school community is reported, those pupils who carried out the bullying will have to be suspended from school activities while it is investigated and solutions are sought. If the solutions have no effect, or if the bullying was so severe that it would be harmful to the rest of the school community to allow the suspended pupil to return to the school, he/she may have to be permanently excluded, in line with Local Education Authority guidelines.

Standing up to bullying behaviour

This school is committed to stopping bullying behaviour and to do this we need everybody's help. Here are the things that every member of the school community can expect from the school and the things that are expected from each member:

All pupils

All of us find ourselves in vulnerable positions sometimes, e.g. when we start a new school/job/subject, if we are having problems at home, etc. As part of the school community, you have a responsibility to help combat bullying by supporting other pupils when they are vulnerable. Don't gang up against another pupil in a vulnerable position, try to help him/her feel less vulnerable. Don't join in with making fun of them, even if you don't feel able to challenge the bullying behaviour yourself. And don't turn a blind eye to bullying and victimisation.

If you know someone has been bullied, let a member of staff know as soon as possible. Members of staff are: teachers, teaching assistants, behavioural support assistants, counsellors, the school nurse, office staff, librarians and playground supervisors.

When you let staff know about bullying you can expect what you say to be taken seriously and that action will be taken to stop the bullying behaviour. If you are ever worried for your own or another pupil's physical safety (including if you are afraid that a pupil may harm himself/herself), **do not hesitate to tell a member of staff** so that they can take immediate action to keep the pupil safe with the help of other staff at the school, parents/carers and the police and ambulance service if necessary.

Pupils who are being bullied

If you are being bullied, you can expect that:

- You will be listened to and taken seriously.
- Action will be taken to help you to stop the bullying.
- You will be involved in the process of deciding what action to take to help stop the bullying and any worries that you may have will be listened to and respected.
- You will be given the opportunity to talk about the way that the bullying has made you feel and to find strategies to deal with these feelings and to understand and cope with bullying behaviour. This means:
- Your form teacher, head of year and the member of staff in charge of the anti-bullying policy will be told about your situation so that they can help to support you.

- You will be given the chance to work with them to find strategies to deal with bullying and to talk about any feelings and worries that you may have.
- You will be offered the chance to talk with staff from other agencies as well, e.g. Personal Advisers from the Connexions service, the school counsellor.
- Your form teacher will ask to let your parent(s)/carer(s) know what is going on, and to offer them the chance to help support you, too.
- You will have regular meetings with staff (e.g. every week for a month, a half-term, or a term) to make sure that the action taken to stop the bullying is really working and that you are happy with how things are going.
- If you are ever in fear for your physical safety, staff will take immediate action to keep you safe with the help of their colleagues at the school, parents/carers and outside agencies like the police and ambulance service if necessary.

Pupils who are bullying

Bullying behaviour has no place at this school. If you are involved in bullying, you can expect that:

- Your bullying behaviour **will** be challenged.
- You will be treated fairly.
- You will be given the opportunity to change your behaviour and encouraged and supported in doing so. This means:
- You will be expected to work with staff to look at the reasons that you have been bullying and to find and put into practice other ways of behaving.
- You will be offered the chance to work with staff from other agencies who can help you to stop bullying, e.g. Personal Advisers from the Connexions service and the school counsellor.
- Your teacher will ask to let your parent(s)/carer(s) know what is going on, and to offer them the chance to help support you in changing your behaviour.

If you don't work at changing your behaviour then staff will have to take more serious action, e.g. suspending you from school activities. At this point the school will have no choice but to involve your parent/carers.

Our priority is to make this school a safe and positive place for the whole school community. If you take part in a serious campaign of victimisation, abuse and intimidation, or episode of physical bullying against any other person belonging to the school community, you will be instantly suspended from coming to school whilst the behaviour is investigated and you may well be excluded.

Staff

All staff can expect to be properly trained and supported in dealing with bullying.

All staff will be expected to:

- Promote an environment that is constructive and safe for all pupils through their own teaching practice and actions.
- Follow the procedures set out in this policy when they are dealing with bullying.
- Work in co-operation with colleagues, pupils, parents/carers, staff from other organisations in the local community and the school's board of governors to combat bullying.

Parents/carers

All parents and carers can expect to be kept informed of the school's anti-bullying work throughout the school year.

Staff will do their best to address any concerns that you may have about bullying; and you will be asked to co-operate with the school in supporting your child and promoting the message that bullying behaviour is not acceptable.

If your child is being bullied, you can expect that:

You and your child will be listened to and believed.

Staff will ensure that you are involved in the process of supporting your child in dealing with the bullying.

Staff will do their best to address any concerns you may have.

Wherever necessary, the school will put you in contact with outside agencies (e.g. Connexions, counselling services, etc.) that can help to support you and your child in addressing his/her experience of being bullied.

If your child is bullying another pupil, you can expect that:

You and your child will be listened to.

Your child will be treated fairly.

Your child will be expected to change his/her bullying behaviour and supported and encouraged in doing so by staff.

Wherever necessary, the school will put you in contact with outside agencies (e.g. Connexions) that can help to support you and your child in addressing his/her bullying behaviour.

If you have any concerns that another child who attends the school (e.g. a friend of your child) may be experiencing bullying, please do not turn a blind eye but mention this to a member of staff.

Governors

School Governors can expect to be kept up-to-date on the progress of the school's anti-bullying work, and to receive a comprehensive annual report on anti-bullying work.

School Governors will be expected to:

Give feedback on the monitoring and evaluation of the anti-bullying policy and practices in the school;

Publicly support the school's anti-bullying message.