

# St Aloysius Catholic Primary School



*“Together with Jesus we  
Love, Learn and Believe”*

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

## Statement of Intent

St Aloysius Primary School is committed to providing a supportive, caring and safe environment in which all children are free from the fear of being bullied. As a school we take bullying and its impact seriously. Bullying of any form is not tolerated in our school, whether carried out by a child or an adult.

Staff, children and parents or carers will be made aware of the school's position on bullying. Bullying behaviour is unacceptable in any form. The school has high expectations of outstanding behaviour and we consistently challenge any behaviour that falls below this. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a member of staff.

Any child who is a victim of bullying will be dealt with in a sympathetic manner. If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff informed, and then discussed with the headteacher. A clear account of the incident will be recorded on the schools electronic recording system (CPOMS) All staff will be informed so that close monitoring of the victim and bully can begin. Parents of both parties will be informed. **What is bullying?**

We recognise that many children and young people will experience conflict in their relationships with other children and young people and as a school we are committed to developing empathy and the skills to manage relationships in a peaceful way that does not harm others.

In St Aloysius Primary School, our definition of bullying is:

**'behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, which intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally, it can happen face to face or online'**

Behaviour that is:

- repeated
- intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally
- often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation

It takes many forms and can include:

- physical assault
- teasing
- making threats
- name calling
- cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messaging)

## Why is it important to respond to bullying?

There is considerable evidence to show that bullying has both short term and longer-term impact on pupils. Bullying impacts on pupils' wellbeing, can impact on attendance and become a significant barrier to learning. Bullying is associated with lower levels of school engagement and achievement both in primary and secondary schools and can lead to mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression.

**Bullying is unacceptable. Our school will respond promptly and effectively to reported incidents of bullying.**

In our school community:

- **Everybody** has the right to be treated with respect.
- **Everybody** has the right to feel happy and safe.
- **No-one** deserves to be a target of bullying.
- Pupils who bully need to **learn different ways** of behaving.

National research has shown that some groups of pupils are particularly vulnerable to bullying these include pupils with SEND, looked after children, pupils from minority ethnic groups or faiths and young carers.

We work with the children to understand “protected characteristics and that it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

- age.
- gender reassignment.
- being married or in a civil partnership.
- being pregnant or on maternity leave.
- disability.
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin.
- religion or belief.
- sex.

### **Types of bullying behaviour**

Bullying can take many forms:

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, threatening behaviour
- Verbal - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, use of derogatory language
- Physical - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Extortion - demanding money/goods with threats
- Online – use of social media, messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology e.g. photos and videos.
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic or bi-phobic - bullying because of sexuality or perceived sexuality
- Transphobic – because of gender identity or perceived gender identity

### **Preventing Bullying**

We foster a clear understanding that bullying, in any form, is unacceptable. We believe that preventing bullying is the responsibility of our whole school community and when there are incidents of bullying, we will work together to deal with the situation and to learn from what has happened. In our school we do this by:

- Using assemblies and time in class to ensure that pupils understand the differences between relational conflict and bullying.
- Building a positive ethos based on respecting and celebrating all types of difference in our school.

- Creating a safe and happy environment, with consequent positive relationships that have an impact on learning and achievement.
- Having a positive ethos that all pupils, staff and parents understand.
- Work in school which develops empathy, social skills and emotional understanding e.g. PSHE, JIL, Assemblies, visitors such as bully busters.
- Think about any safeguarding concern and report concerns to Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Provide assurances to child that concerns have been listened to and action will be taken.
- Consider who else is involved and what roles they have taken.
- Send clear message that the bullying must stop. • Reflect and learn from bullying episodes –consider what needs to happen next to prevent future bullying e.g. PSHE, training etc.
- Raising awareness of online bullying through regular e-safety lessons.
- Adopting a social model approach to bullying. Diversity is valued and everyone is included in our school.
- Focused work with individuals and groups of pupils where required to support understanding and development of social skills.

## **Reporting bullying**

In our school pupils are encouraged to talk to staff when they are unhappy or have concerns. Pupils in our school understand that they have a right to feel and be safe and a responsibility to support others to feel and be safe.

Pupils are encouraged to report bullying to:

- A trusted adult
- Their class teacher/TA

Children are taught that it is important to talk to a trusted adult if bullying is taking place outside of school.

Parents are also encouraged to report concerns and bullying to named individuals. This is normally the class teacher.

When pupils report their concerns, our staff are trained to listen and to believe. We involve children as far as possible in finding solutions.

## **Responding to Bullying**

We monitor and review all bullying incidents to determine any patterns or trends that may require further action.

On a regular basis we give pupils the opportunity to feedback on how safe and happy they feel at school, we do this through pupil questionnaires and safeguarding questions.

All incidents of bullying are logged on CPOMS under the category of bullying. This should be completed as soon as possible and the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be alerted.

### **Procedures for parents:**

- If a parent has any concerns about their child, they should speak to the class teacher immediately. If a parent thinks bullying is the issue, the matter will be referred to the headteacher. The headteacher is always informed of any bullying concerns and monitors the situation carefully.
- If a parent feels unable to talk to the class teacher, they can make an appointment to speak directly with a member of the safeguarding team. • The school will work with both the child and the parents to ensure that any bullying is stopped, and that support is given where needed.
- Parents should not confront the bully or their parents. This can complicate the situation and distress the pupil.
- The school will deal directly with all children involved and their parents directly. Parents will be kept informed of any actions the school is taking.
- If parents feel that their concern has not been dealt with appropriately, they should follow the school's complaints policy.

All members of the school community, including pupils, staff, parents, and governors, are expected to treat everyone with dignity respect at all times. This includes both face-to-face contact and online.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the cyber bullying policy and behaviour policy.