



St Margaret Clitherow
Catholic Primary School

St Margaret Clitherow Anti Bullying Policy Sep 24 to 27

Approval Information	
Reviewed by:	Headteacher Mrs A Mulholland
Approved by:	Full LGB
Date Approved:	14 th November 2024
Next Review date:	September 2027

Document History	
V1.0	Original
V1.1	Re-format of page 1 to include MTCAT logo, page footer to include filename and version number along with minor formatting improvements.

For reference: 'Parents' includes all natural parents, any person who has parental responsibility for a child or care of a child. The latter means the person who the child lives with.

Rationale

St. Margaret Clitherow Catholic primary School is completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate it. It is entirely contrary to the values and principles we work and live by, and it can damage a child's individual and educational needs. All members of the school community have a right to learn and work in a secure and caring environment. They also have a responsibility to contribute, in whatever way they can, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment.

Principles

- Pupils have a right to learn free from intimidation and fear.
- The needs of the victim are paramount.
- Our school will not tolerate bullying behaviour.
- Bullied pupils will be listened to.
- Reported incidents will be taken seriously and thoroughly investigated.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is **deliberate** and **persistent hurtful** behaviour. It is often **repeated over a period of time** and it is **difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves as there is an imbalance of power**.

Children need to know that:

- Everyone has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy
- We should treat everyone with consideration
- If bullying happens, it will be dealt with quickly, effectively and sensitively
- It is important to tell someone
- Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our school.

Forms of bullying

Bullying behaviour can represent itself in a number of different ways. Children and young people can be bullied in ways that are:

- Physical violence such as hitting, pushing or any other use of violence against another pupil.
- Interfering with another pupil's property by stealing, hiding or damaging it.
- Using offensive names, teasing and sarcasm or spreading rumours about another pupil or his /her family.
- Emotional bullying such as being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting or threatening behaviour.
- Misuse of email, internet chatrooms and texting.
- Misuse of associated technology i.e. cameras and video facilities including those on mobile phones.
- Racial abuse including taunts and graffiti.

- Demanding money or property e.g. through the use of threats.

Signs and symptoms of bullying

- There might be a reluctance to go to school and may feel ill in the morning
- He /she may be worried about walking to school
- There may be a change in usual routine
- He / she begins to lack confidence and becomes anxious or withdrawn
- He / she becomes aggressive, abusive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Performance in school begins to drop
- He / she may ask for money or starts stealing money
- He / she becomes nervous or jumpy.

Responsibilities of all Stakeholders

The responsibility of the Head teacher

The head teacher will:

- implement the school anti-bullying strategy and to ensure that all staff are aware of the school policy and know how to deal with incidents of bullying.
- Ensure that all children understand the definition of bullying, know that it is wrong and that it is unacceptable behaviour both in and out of school.
- Ensure that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with incidents of bullying.
- Sets the climate of mutual support and praises for success, to make bullying less likely.

The responsibilities of Staff

Our staff will:

- Take all forms of bullying seriously and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They keep a record on CPOMs of all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in school.
- Foster in our pupils' self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others.
- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect from our pupils.
- Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is being bullied and to the bully and the importance of telling a member of staff about bullying when it happens.
- Consider all opportunities for addressing bullying including through the curriculum, through peer support; circle time; displays and through the School Council.
- Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying.
- Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them.
- Report suspected cases of bullying to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying, and report back promptly and fully on the action, which has been taken.
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with the agreed procedures.

The responsibilities of Pupils

- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity.
- Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so.
- Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances.

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should:

- Not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets.

The responsibilities of Parents and carers

We ask our parents to support their children and the school by:

- Watching for signs and distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying. Advising their children to report any bullying to the class teacher or Headteacher and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other pupils.
- Advising their children not to retaliate violently to any forms of bullying.
- Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken.
- Keep a written record of any reported instances of bullying.
- Informing the school of any suspected bullying, even if their children are not involved.
- Co-operating with the school, if their children are accused of bullying, try to ascertain the truth. And point out the implications of bullying both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves.

The Responsibilities of All

Everyone should:

- Work together to combat and, hopefully in time, to eradicate bullying.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Bullying Hurts!

- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everybody has the right to feel happy and safe.
- No one deserves to be a victim of bullying.
- Bullies need to learn different ways of behaving.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the head teacher, who reports to the governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

Associated policies: Anti-cyber bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy