

St. Joseph's Catholic Academy

Part of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

Policy on Anti-Bullying



Revised January 2021
Next Review January 2024

1 Introduction

- 1.1 It is a government requirement that all schools have an anti-bullying policy.
- 1.2 Bullying are actions that are meant to be hurtful, and which happen on a regular basis. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (e.g. being ignored or not spoken to).

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 Bullying is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable.
- 2.2 We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment where all can learn without anxiety, and measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.
- 2.3 This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- 2.4 We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to the eradication of bullying in our school.

3 The role of governors

- 3.1 The governing body supports the Principal in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- 3.2 The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the Principal to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.
- 3.3 A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident should follow the procedure set out in the Complaints Policy.

4 The role of the Principal

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the Principal to implement the school anti-bullying strategy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The Principal reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request.
- 4.2 The Principal ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The Principal draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the Principal may decide to use an assembly as the forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.
- 4.3 The Principal ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- 4.4 The Principal sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

5 The role of the teacher and support staff

- 5.1 All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.
- 5.2 Teachers record all incidents involving children in their class in the Class Behaviour Log, regardless of where in school they took place. If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will either

investigate it themselves or refer it to the Principal. Teachers and support staff do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the Principal, the teacher informs the child's parents or carers.

- 5.3 We also record incidents that occur near the school, or on the children's way between school and home. Bullying outside of school will also be the concern of the school. Incidents of such should be reported to the school so action can be taken. Incidents of Cyber-bullying are taken extremely serious and the school will always encourage parents to involve the police when this is the case.
- 5.4 When any bullying is reported to have taken place, the teacher will investigate the issue immediately. The teacher will try to remain neutral and deliberately avoid direct, closed questioning which may be interpreted as accusatory or interrogational in style. Each pupil must be given an opportunity to talk and the discussion should remain focused on finding a solution to the problem and stopping the bullying recurring. Once the facts are established, appropriate support will be provided to all those involved. This may involve counselling and support for the victim, and consequences for the bully. Time is spent talking to the child who has done the bullying, explaining to them why their action was wrong and how they should change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying, we inform the Principal. We then invite the child's parents or carers into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, e.g. where these initial discussions have proved ineffective, the Principal may contact external support agencies.
- 5.5 All members of staff receive training which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.
- 5.6 Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. They use drama, role-play, stories etc., within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere.

6 The role of parents and carers

- 6.1 Parents and carers who are concerned that their child might be being bullied, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately. All reports will be taken seriously. If parents are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the Principal. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed on the school website.
- 6.2 Parents and carers have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.
- 6.3 Parents will be informed if their child has been involved in any incident of bullying and the action that has taken place. Parents will be asked to support the strategies suggested to tackle the problem.

7 The role of pupils

- 7.1 Pupils are encouraged to tell anybody they trust if they are being bullied, and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know. Pupils are also encouraged to tell an adult if they are aware of someone else being bullied. Pupils are taught the difference between bullying and isolated incidents of conflict and are expected to understand this in an age appropriate way.
- 7.2 Pupils are invited to tell us their views about a range of school issues, including bullying, in the annual pupil questionnaire.
- 7.3 Our School Council has developed its own anti-bullying leaflet for children which is given to pupils each year.

8 Links to UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

8.1 As a Rights Respecting School we promote and uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. This policy upholds the following articles:

Article 2 - The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 3 – All adults must do what is best for the child. Any decisions that are made should think about how the decisions affect children.

Article 12 – Children have the right to give their opinion and for adults to take this seriously.

Article 14 - Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 17 - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand.

Article 28 – Children have the right to a good quality education. They should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level they can.

Article 29 – Children's education should help them to use and develop their talents and abilities.

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Principal, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.

9.2 The anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the Principal. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.

9.3 This policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if necessary.