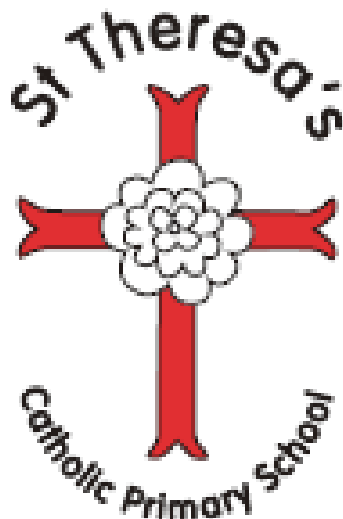


# St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Blacon

Mission Statement:

*Fully valuing everyone in the love of Jesus.*

*Caring and Learning together.*



## Anti-Bullying Policy

Policy date: May 2023

Review date: May 2024

# **Anti-Bullying Policy**

## **Introduction**

At St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, we are aware that pupils may be bullied in any school or setting, and recognise that preventing, raising awareness and consistently responding to any cases of bullying should be a priority to ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils.

In line with the Equality Act 2010 it is essential that our school:

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

At St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a pupil is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the school staff should report their concerns to their local authority children's social care.

This policy is closely linked with our Behaviour Policy, our Safeguarding Policy, our school Code of Conduct and the school's Vision, Aims and Values.

## **Principles**

It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Headteacher to ensure that all members of the school community work within a safe and enabling environment. We value pupils developing respect for others resulting from our caring ethos based upon Christ's example and call to 'Love one another' as he does; our Mission Statement to Fully Value everyone in the love of Jesus and our Core Professional Purpose: Caring and Learning Together. (Vision, Aims and Values).

The four guiding principles which underpin our Anti-Bullying Policy from the moment a pupil enters our school, and throughout their time at St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School are:

- every pupil is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- pupils learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- pupils learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- pupils develop and learn in different ways and at different rates including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

## **Aims**

We are determined to promote and develop a school ethos where bullying behaviour is regarded as unacceptable, to ensure a safe and secure environment is sustained for all pupils. We aim for all pupils to reach their potential academically, socially and personally through learning and playing in a safe and secure environment.

## **Bullying Definition**

At St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School, we discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, with all pupils through assemblies and PSHE lessons. We agree that:

- Bullying is usually physical hurting, name calling, nasty looks or leaving people out.
- Bullying usually happens when the relationship is imbalanced.
- Bullying is usually on-going.

## **Types of Bullying**

### Cyber-Bullying

The rapid development of, and widespread access to, technology has provided a new medium for 'virtual bullying', which can occur in and outside school. Cyber-bullying is a different form of bullying which can happen beyond the school day into home and private space, with a potentially bigger audience, and more accessories as people forward on content.

### Racist Bullying

This refers to a range of hurtful behaviour, both physical and psychological, that make the person feel unwelcome marginalised and excluded, powerless or worthless because of their colour, ethnicity culture, faith community, national origin or national status.

### Homophobic Bullying

This occurs when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian, gay or bisexual people.

### Vulnerable Groups

We recognise that some groups of pupils may be more vulnerable to bullying, including:

- Looked After Children
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children
- Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children from ethnic minorities
- Children entitled to Free School Meals
- Children for whom English is an Additional Language
- Children who are perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual

## **Bullying Prevention**

Preventing and raising awareness of bullying is essential to keeping incidents in our school to a minimum. Through assemblies as well as PSHE lessons, pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss what bullying is, as well as incidents we would not describe as bullying, such as two friends falling out, or a one-off

argument. Pupils are taught to tell an adult in school if they are concerned that someone is being bullied.

### **Code of Conduct**

Our school Code of Conduct is regularly promoted in assemblies and displayed throughout the school. Through pupils following these rules, and staff reinforcing them, bullying should be significantly reduced.

Our Code of Conduct is as follows:

- Be kind, helpful and polite to others
- Be respectful of others; their opinions, feelings and property
- Respect everyone's right to speak and to be heard
- Work quietly to avoid disturbing others
- Care for the school environment and those in it by being tidy, clean and organised
- Use materials and equipment wisely and safely
- Move around the school and grounds safely and sensibly

### **Behaviour Policy**

Our Behaviour Policy includes rewards and sanctions which are used consistently, alongside positive relationships, to prevent inappropriate behaviour, and promote positive behaviour. The school identifies itself as a 'Telling School' children are taught to know and understand that they should 'Tell' another adult if they know of a child who is bullying or being bullied. They are also encouraged to tell us or their families / carers if they feel they are being bullied.

### **Responding to Bullying**

All cases of alleged bullying should be reported to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher or senior member of staff.

In any case of alleged bullying, either the Class teacher, the Headteacher, or a senior member of staff should first establish the facts, and build an accurate picture of events over time, through speaking to the alleged perpetrator(s), victim(s) and adult witnesses, as well as parents and pupil witnesses if necessary and appropriate.

If the allegation of bullying is upheld, the Headteacher (or senior leader) should seek to use a restorative approach with the perpetrator(s) and victim(s) together. The perpetrator(s) should fully understand the consequences of their actions on the victim(s), and apologise without reservation. Both parties should be clear that a repeat of these behaviours will not be acceptable.

All bullying incidents must be recorded. Parents of both parties should be informed.

If the situation does not improve, the Headteacher (or senior leader) should meet with the parent(s) of the bullying child(ren) and agree clear expectations and boundaries which would be shared with the pupils involved. Any further incidents should lead to intervention (e.g. through outside agencies), further monitoring, support and punitive sanctions as deemed necessary. Any necessary action should be taken until the bullying has stopped.

## **Signs of Bullying**

Staff should be vigilant in looking out for signs of bullying or other child protection issues including:

- Physical: unexplained bruised, scratches, cuts, missing belongings, damaged clothes, or schoolwork, loss of appetite, stomach aches, headaches, bedwetting.
- Emotional: losing interest in school, withdrawn, secretive, unusual shows of temper, refusal to say why unhappy, high level of anxiety, mood swings, tearfulness for no reason, lack of confidence, headaches and stomach aches, signs of depression.
- Behavioural: asking to be taken to school, coming home for lunch, taking longer to get home, asks for more money, using different routes to school, 'losing' more items than usual, sudden changes in behaviour and mood, concentration difficulties, truancy.

## **In Summary:**

The school provides training for staff and lessons / assemblies for pupils to help them become be as knowledgeable and aware as possible of the need to minimise and as an ultimate goal eliminate all incidents of bullying. Children should feel safe to attend school and understand that no one has the right to make them or another individual feel vulnerable, afraid or worthless. Children who become bullies will be supported and helped to learn about the consequences of their actions. Reasons for the bullying behaviour would be looked for and appropriate support to address this would be put in place.

The school has forms which it uses to record incidents of Bullying. Bullying Incidents are reported to the Governing Body each term. The school is happy that the number of incidents which are reported are very low and continue to work hard to ensure that this remains the case for all the pupils in its care.

(Bullying Report Form attached to the back page of this policy this should be completed and uploaded onto CPOMS or full details added to CPOMS including details of all involved in in the incident which has taken place)

This Policy has been written by Mrs L. Holland after discussion with staff, pupils and has been agreed by the full Governing Body: