



Anti-Bullying Policy

School Mission Statement

In St. Clare's Primary School we will strive to educate our children and develop their full potential in a safe, happy environment that is inclusive of all, with the support and involvement of our parents and parish.

St. Clare's Primary School is completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate it. It is entirely unacceptable and against our values and beliefs that everyone in our school has the right to work in a secure and caring environment. All members of the school have a responsibility to protect and maintain that environment.

This anti-bullying policy has been developed through consultation with the staff and pupils of St. Clare's Primary School. It is an integral part of our pastoral care and works along side our discipline policy.

Aims

- To ensure the rights of our children and young people are upheld.
- To develop a school culture in which bullying is seen as totally unacceptable behaviour.
- To support and enhance our Pastoral Care practices within our school.
- To create a safe, caring and happy environment for everyone in our school.
- To help children develop positive attitudes towards themselves and others.
- To create an environment of openness, respect and trust.
- To provide learning experiences to meet all our children's needs.

Definitions

The NIABF (Northern Ireland Anti Bullying Forum) defines **bullying** as the repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.

- **Physical** – This is when a bully attacks someone by punching, kicking, hitting or pushing them.
- **Verbal** – This happens when a bully uses words to hurt or frighten someone and can be done in lots of different ways.
- **Silent** – This happens when a bully makes you feel bad but doesn't say anything- they might ignore you all the time or try to stop you joining in.
- **Cyberbullying** – This happens via mobile phone or the internet.

Signs and Symptoms

Adults should be aware of that a child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied.

- Is frightened of walking to or from school
- Begs to be driven to school

- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Begins to truant
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- Has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Comes home hungry (money / lunch has been stolen)
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- Is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

Cyberbullying

The greatly increased availability of mobile, internet and wireless technologies to pupils has provided increasing opportunities for misuse through what is now regularly referred to in the press and beyond as ‘cyberbullying’.

- **Text message bullying** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort
- **Picture/video-clip bullying via mobile phone cameras** is used to make the person being bullied feel threatened or embarrassed, with images usually sent to other people. ‘Happy slapping’ involves filming and sharing physical attacks.
- **Phone call bullying via mobile phone** uses silent calls or abusive messages.
- **Email bullying** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages
- **Chat room bullying** involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room

Procedures

- *Everyone must report bullying incidents to an adult or class teacher.*
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.

- Pupils, who are involved in bullying, should be spoken to by a teacher, ensuring the victim has an opportunity to discuss the problem in confidence.
- In minor cases the class teacher will manage the issue and may contact parents when deemed necessary.
- In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff and reported to the V.P / Principal.
- In serious cases parents will be informed and asked to come into a meeting to discuss the issue.
- If necessary and appropriate, support agencies will be consulted.
- An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
- Behaviour patterns will be monitored to ensure situation is resolved.

Sanctions for bullying will follow the school discipline policy guidelines.

Prevention

We believe that prevention is critical to combating bullying in our school. An awareness of bullying is raised in a variety of ways through the curriculum.

- Anti-Bullying Week (NICCY)
- Circle Time
- Assemblies

St Clare's operates a no mobile phone rule for all pupils and has developed an Internet Use Policy. These help to ensure that modern technologies are used to support engaging, positive and effective learning. .

Bullying Schemes –

- Children's Safety Education Foundation - The Young Persons Guide to Bullying
- Kidscape- Don't Bully Me
- Save the Children - Something to Say

Websites-

www.bullying.co.uk

www.Kidscape.org.uk

www.savethechildren.org.uk

www.niccy.org

www.childline.org.uk

www.antibully.org.uk

Guidance has been taken from:

Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum
National College for School Leadership
Kidscape
Childline

NICCY
BELB
CCMS