

ST. DAVID'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL



St David's School: Equality, Diversity
and Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures

September 2013

OUR SCHOOL'S VALUES AND BELIEFS

All pupils and staff have the right to feel happy, safe and included.

Our shared values of mutual respect between staff and pupils, high expectations of success within a caring and supportive environment form the basis of our positive school ethos. Within our wider school community, we promote tolerance and understanding of one another and value diversity.

We are committed to advancing equality of opportunity for all and we work actively towards eliminating all forms of bullying and discrimination

We recognise the effects that bullying and discrimination can have on pupils' feelings of worth, on their school work and in the community. We actively foster good relations between diverse groups and individuals.

We recognise that certain individuals and groups in society experience disadvantage, prejudice or discrimination on account of their age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender change, looked-after status, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief, sexual orientation and socio economic status or any combination of these.

DEFINITIONS

Bullying is an abuse of power that is defined by its effects. People who are bullied are upset by something someone else has done or said to them or about them. They are likely to fear that this will happen again and feel powerless to stop it. Bullying is also a breach of children's rights under several articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. **Cyber-bullying** is bullying behaviour that takes place via mobile phone or over the internet through emails, instant messaging and social networking websites.

Equalities

We use the legal definition of 'equalities' which gives protection to people who have specific characteristics. The Equality Act 2010 defines these as 'protected groups'. Looked-after children, young carers and children and young people from poor backgrounds are also included as equalities groups.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head Teacher is responsible for introducing and implementing this policy. However all staff, all pupils and their parents have an active part to play in the development and maintenance of the policy, and in its success.

Pupils are expected to

- *report all incidents of bullying and suspected incidents that other children may be afraid to report*
- *Support each other and to seek help to ensure that everyone feels safe, and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school.*

Teachers are expected to be proactive, to treat all allegations seriously and keep records.

Parents can help by

- *Supporting our anti-bullying policy and procedures.*
- *Encouraging their children to be positive members of the school community*
- *Discussing with their child's teacher any concerns that their child may be experiencing*

- *Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside of school.*
- *Speaking to the Head Teacher if their concerns are serious and ongoing.*

Management Teams are expected to

- *Monitor and report annually on the implementation of this policy.*
- *Supervise the review and updating of this policy at least every four years.*

CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS ... AND COMPLIMENTS

We recognise that there may be times when parents feel that we have not dealt well with an incident of bullying and we ask that this be brought to the Head Teacher's notice. If the Head Teacher cannot resolve these concerns informally, parents can raise their concerns more formally through the school's Complaints Procedures. If early resolution at this stage is not achieved, then the matter can be referred to the Department's Advice and Conciliation Service. We are also pleased to receive compliments – feedback from parents when things have gone well.

COMMUNICATING THIS POLICY

- *We advertise our anti-bullying, equality and diversity policy on the school web-site*
- *We have allocated 'Anti-Bullying' and 'Equalities' weeks to raise awareness of this policy*

EVALUATING AND REVIEWING OUR POLICY

We evaluate this policy using the following measures:

The number of incidents that are reported to staff over a given period.

Rates of attendance, exclusions attainment and achievement of pupils in protected groups.

From the comments received in our comments box.

Pupils' perceptions and experiences of bullying in secondary schools through periodic questionnaires.

We investigate patterns of absence to ensure that children are not taking unnecessary days off school due to fear of being bullied.

The number of complaints and compliments that we receive from parents.

From the comments made by visitors and other people connected with the school.

The policy and procedures will be reviewed every 4 years.

PROCEDURES

PREVENTION

We remind pupils at least twice a year about how our school deals with bullying, including cyber bullying. Periodic poster campaigns will be used on the school notice boards and classrooms are updated and used to remind pupils that bullying and discrimination are not acceptable, and tells them what to do if they are bullied.

There are public, accessible welcoming messages throughout the school in a range of languages.

We use evaluation tools which measure ethos, relationships and confidence in schools, such as pupil well-being questionnaires, pupil focus groups and bullying surveys.

We involve other agencies and partners in health, police and the voluntary sector.

The school holds diversity and anti-bullying days, weeks and assemblies and publishes its work.

Pupils are supported to lead initiatives in bringing in speakers and organising e.g. anti-racist workshops

Training opportunities are promoted to staff that explore the development of attachment, empathy, resilience and problem solving skills.

There is a buddy system, especially at transition stage Nursery to Primary 1

The school supports nurture and friendship groups

Children in our school experience Circle Time which is used to share feelings and concerns.

Bullying and equalities issues are a standing item on our Pupil Council agenda.

Playground supervision is regularly reviewed to be alert to bullying and discrimination.

We annually review our arrangements for young people to raise issues confidently with staff

Our staff are supported in accessing professional development opportunities that increase their awareness and understanding of bullying, prejudice and discrimination.

The Curriculum for Excellence is used to:

- Increase knowledge of children's rights and responsibilities as responsible citizens
- Provide age-appropriate reading materials and resources that provide a balanced diversity.
- Monitor and improve where needed the attainment and achievement of pupils in protected groups to develop successful learners
- Ensure that children and young people in protected groups are appropriately included in developing pupil participation as effective contributors.
- Build resilience and empathy in young people as confident individuals
- Raise awareness about bullying and our Equality, Diversity and Anti-Bullying Policy across a range of school subjects.

WHAT WE DO WHEN BULLYING OCCURS

A child may not be engaging consciously in bullying behaviour, but its impact is still felt and this is taken seriously. The level of awareness of a child who is bullying is a significant factor in how it is dealt with.

Pupils who experience bullying or discrimination will be listened to and supported.

Pupils who engage in bullying behaviour or discrimination will be treated fairly and consistently using a range of measures.

Some examples of our strategies are:-

Restorative practices, including acknowledging grievances

Involvement of parent/carer where appropriate

Counselling

Involvement of other agencies and partners in health, police and voluntary sector

De-escalation strategies

Physical separation of person/people bullying, where necessary and possible

Sanctions, including loss of privileges

Assessment of additional support needs for person being bullied or person bullying.

Referral to specific support service, such as Educational Psychologist, Education Welfare Service, Social Work service or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

In extreme cases, Child Protection procedures will be considered

Exclusion from school is not itself a sanction or punishment for bullying behaviour and will only be used as a last resort

Our support to pupils who are bullied or discriminated against

They are reassured that they do not deserve this and it is not their fault.

We assure them that it was right to report the incident.

We encourage them to talk about how they feel and try to ascertain the extent of the problem.

We engage them in making choices about how the matter may be resolved

We discuss strategies for being safe and staying safe

We ask them to report immediately any further incidents to us

We affirm that it can be stopped and that we will persist with intervention until it does

Our work with pupils who bully others

We interview the pupil (or pupils) involved in bullying separately.

We listen to their version of events and talk to anyone who may have witnessed the bullying.

We reinforce the message that bullying is not acceptable, and that we expect it to stop.

We seek a commitment to this end.

We affirm that it is right for pupils to let us know when they are being bullied.

We consider sanctions under our school's Behaviour/Discipline Policy.

We advise pupils responsible for bullying that we check to ensure that bullying stops.

We ensure that those involved know that we have done so.

When bullying occurs, we contact the parents of the pupils involved at an early stage.

We follow up after incidents to check that the bullying has not started again. We do this within two weeks, and again during the following half term.

We work with pupils who have been involved in bullying others to ascertain the sort of support that they need.

Reporting and Recording Incidents

Pupils who have been bullied should report this to their class teacher or a pupil support assistant

Pupils who see others being bullied should report this to their class teacher or a pupil support assistant

Members of staff who receive reports that a pupil has been bullied should report this to the Head teacher

Reports of bullying are logged by the Head teacher

Records are kept by the Head teacher

All incidents are recorded and acts of bullying or discrimination on ground of race, disability, gender, faith and sexual orientation are of equal concern and are all clearly distinguishable

We send annual reports of incidents to our departmental equalities colleagues on request

CYBERBULLYING AND BULLYING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES

We know that bullying can occur outside the school gates and via mobile phones and social network internet sites. The bullying may be done by pupils from our own school, by pupils from other schools or by people who are not at school at all. Where a pupil or parent tells us of bullying off the school premises we will:

- *Talk to pupils about how to avoid or handle bullying outside of school.*
- *Talk to the Head teacher of another school whose pupils are allegedly bullying.*
- *Consider additional support, police involvement and Child Protection procedures*

PLANNING

We examine and use all available information to ensure that the promotion of equality and anti-bullying issues are contained within our development plans.

EQUALITY IMPACTS ANALYSIS

When reviewing or creating any new policies or services within our school, we give due regard to all protected groups and consider whether any individual or group might experience a particularly positive or negative impact. We keep a record of this and where necessary we take steps to reduce any negative impact.

INVOLVEMENT

We actively encourage all our young people to participate in school and extra-curricular activities and we take positive action to make sure that the diverse school population is represented in activities, surveys and our student council.

GATHERING AND MONITORING INFORMATION

Our school routinely monitors attainment of pupils by ethnicity and gender. We are also committed to developing measures for monitoring the achievements of our looked-after and disabled pupils.

We also monitor attendance and exclusion of pupils by ethnicity, disability and gender.

We examine our annual records of incidents and survey information

We use information from surveys of pupils' views and opinions

We take active steps to ensure that all data held on pupils' disabilities, ethnicity, caring and looked-after status is accurate and regularly reviewed.

This policy will be reviewed in 4 years (2017)

