



St John's Green Primary School

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Learn to Live, Live to Learn.

Anti Bullying Statement and Policy

Rationale

At St John's Green we recognise that bullying can occur. When it does it can be harmful both physically and emotionally for the victim. It can also be a sign that the child carrying out the bullying has underlying issues that need to be addressed. The purpose of this policy is to enable adults in the school to recognise bullying when it takes place and to deal with it effectively.

What is Bullying?

The Anti Bullying Alliance (ABA) defines bullying as:

the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person by another(s), where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be carried out physically, verbally, emotionally or through cyberspace.

Bullying includes any number of repetitive behaviours where the perpetrator or perpetrators intend to cause harm – these could include name calling; making offensive comments; hitting, kicking and shoving; stealing or harming belongings; graffiti; coercion; spreading harmful messages through gossip: sending or spreading harmful messages and images via mobile phones and the internet; excluding or isolating someone from the peer group.

Bullying can also be cultural and systemic. It may be linked to wider prejudicial behaviour and targeting of certain groups – for example, homophobic bullying; bullying of children with special educational needs and disabilities; bullying relating to race and religion; bullying of children in care; bullying of children who care for their parents or their siblings (young carers); and gender-based bullying.

Defining Bullying Behaviour

- Bullying behaviour deliberately causes hurt (either physically or emotionally).
- Bullying behaviour is usually repetitive (though one-off incidents, such as the posting of an image or sending of a text that is passed around a group, can quickly spiral into bullying behaviour).
- Bullying behaviour involves an imbalance of power (the person or people on the receiving end feel like they can't defend themselves).
- Bullying behaviour is not teasing between friends without intention to cause hurt.
- Bullying behaviour is not falling out between friends after a quarrel or disagreement (though in some cases this can lead to bullying).
- Bullying behaviour does not include activities that all parties have consented to and enjoy (although as a school we will be very vigilant with regards to co-oercion).



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Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour. It is usually repeated, often over a period of time and when it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

We believe that there are a number of types of bullying.

Emotional: excluding from a group, tormenting, ridiculing, humiliating

Physical: hitting, punching, pinching kicking or taking someone's belongings.

Verbal: name-calling, insulting, Indirect bullying, through spreading stories about someone, threats, making fun of someone

Racist: racial taunts, gestures, making fun of someone's culture or religion

Sexual: unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive or sexist comments

Cyber: setting up hate websites, offensive e-mails and texts

Bullying outside of school

Bullying behaviour can take place both inside and outside of school. Bullying outside of school can impact on the school day – this may include incidents of cyberbullying; bullying on the way to and from school; and any arguments between peers outside of school that can lead to bullying behaviour. There may also be additional problems in families and the wider community that have an impact on bullying behaviour in school, such as a climate of racism and harassment, family feuding, domestic violence and gang-related behaviour.

Bullying is not:

It is important to understand that bullying is not odd occasion falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or when the occasional 'joke' is played on someone. Children do sometimes fall out or say things because they are upset. When occasional problems of this kind arise it is not classed as bullying. It is an important part of a child's development to learn how to deal with friendship breakdowns, the odd name calling or childish prank. We all have to learn how to deal with these situations and develop social skills to repair relationships.

It is bullying if it is done repeatedly and on purpose.

Whenever the opportunity arises it must be made profoundly clear that we will **not** tolerate bullying at St John's Green. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so that they can grow and learn in a relaxed and safe environment.

Role of Parents

Parents have an important part to play in our anti bullying policy. We ask parents to:

Look out for unusual behavior in their child – for example not wanting to attend school, feeling ill regularly, or not completing work to their usual standard.

Always take an active role in your child's education, Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent time with etc.

If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behavior, inform the school. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.

If you feel a child has bullied your child, please do not approach that child in the playground or on their way home.

Please inform the school immediately.

It is important that you do not advise your child to fight back or to repeat the bullies behaviour. This will only make the situation worse.

Tell your child it is not their fault they are being bullied.

Reinforce the school policy on bullying and ensure your child is not afraid to ask for help.

If you know your child is involved in bullying, please discuss the issues with them and inform the school.



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