

**We follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we live,  
love and learn together.**



## Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly and re-presented to The Governing Body as appropriate if significant changes are made.

**Policy reviewed: Autumn 2021**

**To be reviewed : Autumn 2022**

Reviewed by: A Crist Date: 16. 9.21

Signature: A Crist Date: 16.9.21

Chair/Vice of Governors Signature: T McCaul Date: 16.9.21

## *St Luke's Catholic Primary School* *Anti-Bullying Policy*

### **1 Introduction**

**1.1** Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Bullying that happens online, using social networks, games and mobile phones, is often called cyberbullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night. (NSPCC)

#### Peer on Peer Abuse

All children are capable of abusing their peers. This can manifest itself in a whole spectrum of behaviours including -

- Bullying including cyberbullying
- Sexual violence and harassment
- Physical abuse
- Sexting
- Upskirting (now a criminal offence and has reporting requirements)
- Initiation /hazing type violence and rituals

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behaviour that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both children who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behaviour must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Children who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviours happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumours, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Websites such as [Stopbullying.gov](http://Stopbullying.gov) are recommended for further guidance and advice.

### **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.

**2.3** This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur in conjunction with our Behaviour and Relationships Policy.

**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 headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow bullying to take place in our school, and that any incidents of bullying that do occur are taken very seriously and dealt with appropriately.

**3.2** The governing body monitors the incidents of bullying that occur, and reviews the effectiveness of the school policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher 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** The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases, the governing body notifies the headteacher and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

### **4 The role of the Headteacher**

**4.1** It is the responsibility of the headteacher 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 deal with incidents of bullying. The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the antibullying policy on request.

**4.2** The headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the headteacher may decide to use assembly as a forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.

**4.3** The headteacher ensures that all staff receive sufficient training to be equipped to deal with all incidents of bullying.

**4.4** The headteacher 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**

**5.1** Teachers in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and intervene to prevent incidents from taking place. They keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class and that they are aware of in the school.

**5.2** If teachers witness an act of bullying, they 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 headteacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.

**5.3** We keep an anti-bullying log on CPOMS where we record all incidents of bullying that occur outside lesson time, either near the school or on the children's way home or to school. If any adult witnesses an act of bullying, they should record the event in CPOMS.

**5.4** If, as teachers, we become aware of any bullying taking place between members of a class, we deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. We spend time talking to the child who has bullied: we explain why the action of the child was wrong, and we endeavour to help the child change their behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the headteacher and the special needs coordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the headteacher may contact external support agencies such as the social services.

**5.5** Teachers routinely attend training, which enables them to become equipped to deal with incidents of bullying and behaviour management.

**5.6** Teachers attempt to support all children in their class and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. By praising, rewarding and celebrating the success of all children, we aim to prevent incidents of bullying.

## **6 The role of parents**

**6.1** Parents 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.

**6.2** Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy and to actively encourage their child to be a positive member of the school.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

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

**7.2** This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logs, and by discussion with the headteacher. Governors analyse information with regard to gender, age and ethnic background of all children involved in

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bullying incidents.