



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



Approved Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved by Full Governing Body: 5th October 2022

Signed _____ Chair of Governors.

Patrick E. Daly.

To be reviewed: October 2024

To be reviewed: October 2026

Safeguarding Statement:

'Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents governors and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Our Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to encouraging everyone to 'Be the Best They Can Be'

Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

Definition

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School recognises bullying as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs or disabilities, or because a child is adopted, in care or has caring responsibilities. Many experts say that bullying involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. Bullying behaviour can occur in school, outside school and online.

If left unchallenged or dismissed as banter or horseplay it can also lead to reluctance to report other behaviour. Early intervention can help to set clear expectations of the behaviour that is and isn't acceptable and help stop negative behaviours escalating.

Dealing with Bullying

Prevention

As part of the curriculum, pupils are taught the importance of tolerance and celebrating difference. The school promotes an ethos of respect which is underpinned by the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. As part of the pupils' Personal, Social, Emotional and Health education, they are given the opportunity to explore issues around bullying and how to respond to bullying behaviour at an age-appropriate level.

Pupils are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying behaviour toward themselves or others to a member of staff. Parents are also encouraged to report any concerns that school may not be aware of.

Staff reflect on incidents of bullying to identify lessons learned for the future.

Reporting and responding to incidents of Bullying

All staff are expected to be vigilant to the signs of bullying as part of their responsibility to safeguard pupils, especially with regard to vulnerable children. If a member of staff believes that a pupil is being bullied, or if a child has reported bullying behaviour, they must record their concerns and inform the Headteacher who will initiate an investigation. All reports of bullying and subsequent actions are recorded on CPoMs.

In all cases, parents or carers will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

Support for pupils who are bullied

We will support children who are bullied and make appropriate provision for a child's needs. The nature and level of support will depend on the individual circumstances and the level of need.

These can include:

- Opportunity to talk to a familiar adult that knows the pupil well
- Support from the Pastoral Manager
- Formal counselling
- Early Help Assessment
- Referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Discipline and tackling underlying issues of bullying

Pupils who bully will be disciplined in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. We will also consider the motivations behind bullying behaviour and whether it reveals any concerns for the safety of the perpetrator. Where this is the case, the child engaging in bullying may need support themselves to address underlying issues that might have motivated the bullying behaviour. They will also be supported to understand the impact of their behaviour on other children, including those who witness the bullying behaviour. The following document gives further guidance on supporting children who bully: [Supporting Young People Who Bully](#)