

St. Jude's Anti –Bullying Policy

Our Mission Statement: -

At St. Jude's Catholic School we will support our children to enable them to reach their full potential, thereby empowering them to be caring individuals capable of critical independent thought.

Why do we need a policy?

At St. Jude's School every child has the right to be educated in a safe environment. Every member of the school community is entitled to be safe, both those here to learn and those who are here to provide the learning environment. Bullying is an infringement of that entitlement.

What is bullying?

The term "bullying" is applied to a wide variety of unwelcome physical and non-physical assaults.

At St. Jude's School unfriendly or threatening looks, insults, rumour-spreading, name-calling, teasing, aggressive gestures, tripping up, pushing, kicking, racial comments or sexual advances are all considered acts of bullying.

How can we prevent bullying?

- Parents, school and parish can work together to promote a caring community based on Christ's teaching.
- Children will be given the opportunity to discuss issues surrounding bullying during circle time.
- Children will be taught anger management and avoidance strategies through our personal, social and moral curriculum.
- Parents can support and promote a "non-violent" policy within their homes and in their local community.
- Parents can ensure that their child's concerns are listened to and reported to the school immediately, so that we can take appropriate action.

How can we stop bullying?

At St. Jude's school children are encouraged to report any incident which they consider to be bullying, to the nearest responsible adult – teacher, teaching assistant, mid-day supervisor, admin staff, caretaking, cleaning staff or parent helper. They are also encouraged to talk to their parents about anything that they are concerned about.

All adult members of St. Jude's agree to a policy of "Zero-tolerance" of bullying. Any report of bullying by a child is taken seriously and the agreed procedure evoked.

Procedure for dealing with reported incidents of bullying

When an incident is reported

All school staff will:

1. Listen to the child's report of the incident.
2. Take notes of names of perpetrators, incident and possible witnesses.
3. Pass this information as soon as practicable to our Behaviour Co-ordinator (BECO) (Mrs. Brady), Senior Mid-day Supervisor (SMS) (Mrs. Callaghan) or Headteacher (Mrs. McGrew).
4. On receipt of this information our SMS, BECO and/or Headteacher will investigate the incident, talking to all children involved, to establish the contexts and frequency of reported incidents.

Because we consider bullying as a serious incident we ask parents to directly inform the headteacher or BECO of any concern. Our staff will then monitor, track, report and follow our procedures to deal with concerns.

Parents are asked to

1. Listen to the child's report of the incident.
2. Take notes of names of perpetrators, incident and possible witnesses.
3. Contact school as soon as possible, by phone, fax, and e. mail or in person and pass the information to either the BECO or Headteacher.
4. On receipt of this information our SMS, BECO and/or Headteacher will investigate the incident, talking to all children involved, to establish the contexts and frequency of reported incidents.

What happens next?

(Please refer to our Behaviour policy page 3)

Sanctions for Inappropriate behaviour

1. Incidents will be logged in our "Incident Book". If a child's name appears twice in one half term parents are normally asked to come into school to discuss their child's behaviour and future courses of action. Where incidents are deemed to involve

bullying the parents of perpetrators will be contacted within one day of the incident.

2. Perpetrators will be kept in detention at play times and/or lunchtimes. Names will be logged in detention book. Should a child re-offend by deliberately bullying, temporary suspension from school will be considered by the headteacher.
3. Children who perpetrate frequent acts of bullying may be in need of support from external agencies e.g. behaviour support team; educational psychologist, school counsellor or support at home from Social Services or in extreme cases the Police Force. Following discussion with parents the appropriate referral to external agencies could be made.
4. Children who frequently report acts of bullying against themselves may be in need of support from external agencies. Following discussion with parents the appropriate referral to external agencies could be made.

Reporting of incidents of bullying at our school

- The headteacher and BECO will report the incidence of bullying at the half termly Assessment and Tracking committee meetings.
- The chair of the Assessment and Tracking committee will include data on incidence of bullying to the full governors meeting each term.