

St Margaret Clitherow Roman Catholic Primary School



Working Together to Deal with Bullying *A leaflet for parents*

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Aims of this leaflet.

As a school community we have a shared responsibility for the well-being of all our children. We take this responsibility very seriously and wish to work together with you and your child to ensure that our school is a happy place for everyone. This leaflet is intended to help ensure that we have a shared understanding of what bullying is, of the approaches and strategies used by the school to respond to incidents of bullying and of the responsibilities of all concerned. We hope you find the leaflet informative and useful.

*Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church,
our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him.*

Our approach

Our anti-bullying approaches are consistent with the values of a Catholic community and preparing children for life in an inclusive society. These include incorporating an acceptance and valuing of difference, the need to cope with difficult individuals, the role of forgiveness and ensuring acceptable standards of behaviour. We seek to create an environment that encourages and reinforces good behaviour.

What is bullying?

The following 3 dimensions help us to define bullying behaviour:

- Bullying is intentionally hurtful, physically, emotionally or mentally
- It is a repeated experience, rather than an isolated incident
- It involves an inequality of power, such that it is difficult to reject or deal with the hurtful behaviour

Examples of hurtful behaviour that may contribute to bullying may include:

- Verbal – mimicking, put-downs, humiliation, hurtful remarks, name-calling, racist remarks, posting nasty remarks on the internet
- Physical – hitting, pushing, hurting, disrupting work or play
- Indirect – spreading rumours, exclusion, getting others to be unkind, forwarding hurtful texts, photographs or messages
- Psychological – intimidation, threats, looks to make someone fearful

The School's role

The Headteacher has active oversight of the anti-bullying policy, procedures and strategies at the school.

The governor who is linked to child protection, safeguarding and anti-bullying is Sally Curtis.

The school will:

- Create an environment where children feel safe to raise their concerns
- Listen and respond
- Teach pupils to understand what bullying is, to recognise their responsibilities towards others, to be resilient and reduce their own vulnerability. This includes key Christian messages such as respect and forgiveness
- Act to eliminate bad behaviour through education and sanctions and ensure that bullying behaviour stops
- Act to resolve incidents, strive to rebuild relationships and restore a safe environment for all
- Make staff aware of concerning behaviour and vulnerable children so they can provide appropriate support
- Inform parents of any significant incidents involving their children so they can support their child and assist in achieving resolution
- Record all significant incidents
- Provide follow up support to vulnerable individuals as appropriate

Parents/Carers: How you can support your child

Parents have an important role in encouraging their children to be positive members of the school community. We can only be fully effective in dealing with incidents with parents' support:

- Be aware that an anti-bullying policy is available from the office and on the web-site
- Inform the school of all incidents of bullying. Report single incidents to the class teacher or repeated hurtful behaviour to the head teacher
- Please do not approach other parents or children directly or spread stories about incidents
- If you think your child is the victim of bullying behaviour:
 - listen carefully and reassure her/him
 - explain the importance of telling an adult at school
 - work to raise her/his self esteem and self worth
 - help her/him to practise/implement any agreed strategy
- If your child has used bullying behaviour:
 - help her/him understand why their behaviour is unacceptable
 - support her/him in co-operating with the school
 - help her/him to practise/implement any agreed strategy
 - encourage and praise positive change
- In all cases parents can help their child to reconcile, repair relationships and put resolved incidents behind them.