



## ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

### MISSION STATEMENT

At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School, we believe that God is at the centre of all we aim to do. It is our goal to ensure that all members of our school community are given the opportunity to get to know God and thank Him for His goodness to us. We are the village school and are at the heart of this village community, all members of this community are made welcome at our school because, it is our faith that, **“with God at the centre, we reach out to support each other in learning, growth and community.”**

### OUR DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Through discussion with the children in each class we have arrived at our definition of bullying:

*“We agree that a bully is a person who hurts someone over and over again on purpose. A bully can hurt someone by saying unkind things or by doing unkind things like hitting or kicking.”*

The children all understand that bullying is unacceptable. Any child who indulges in bullying behaviour is reminded of our definition, and a discussion with the parents takes place if this seems to be appropriate.

### AIMS

1. To provide a learning environment free from any threat or fear, that is conducive to the achievement of individual aspirations.
2. To reduce and to eradicate wherever possible instances in which pupils feel frightened, unhappy or subject to bullying, and for reasons of gender perception.
3. To establish a means of dealing with bullying, and of providing support to pupils who have been bullied.
4. To ensure that all pupils, staff and parents are aware of the policy and that they fulfil their obligations to it.
5. To meet any obligations that rest with the school.

### CREATING AN ANTI-BULLYING CLIMATE IN SCHOOL

Through our reward systems, our Collective Worship, our Behaviour Policy and our PSHE Policy, the school promotes positive behaviour. The key features of these are:

- A reward system to reinforce effort and achievement and readily praise children for making right choices
- Opportunities for discussion and procedures for awareness raising
- Clear and consistent messages from all members of staff

## **RAISING AWARENESS**

Assemblies and Collective Worship often focus on aspects of behaviour, in particular, learning how we can behave as Christians. At regular intervals children take part in PSHE learning and have the opportunity to discuss their views about a range of issues. Advantage is often taken during such discussions to explore the feelings of pupils and to clarify what to do if they have problems. Clear guidance is provided for parents and pupils to follow if they suspect bullying is taking place (see below). Training is provided for staff in recognising bullying and how to respond.

## **RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS WHEN THEY OCCUR**

Pupils who have been bullied or who are aware of others being bullied should report this to the adult responsible for the activity, e.g. class teacher during a lesson or lunchtime supervisor during lunchtime.

Members of staff who receive reports that a pupil has been bullied should report this to a teacher and/or the Headteacher. Reports of bullying will be recorded following the school's behaviour procedures.

***Where bullying is of a racist nature, this will be kept on record through our CPOMS system.***

## **WORK WITH CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN BULLIED**

Pupils will be assured that they do not deserve to be bullied and that they are right to have reported the incident. We will try to find out the extent of the problem. They will be encouraged to talk about the way they feel and how the matter may be resolved. Strategies for being and staying safe will be discussed. Pupils will be asked to report immediately any subsequent incidents. We will reaffirm that bullying can be stopped and that our school will persist with intervention until it has.

## **PUPILS WHO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BULLYING**

It will usually be appropriate to explore the incident(s) with the pupils involved to establish what has happened and why. We will ensure those involved will know what we have done. The parents/guardians of the pupils may be contacted to establish a way forward.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Everyone within school is expected to:

- Act in a respectful and supportive way towards one another.
- Adhere to and to promote the aims of this policy.
- Value the contributions to school of every member of the school community.
- Report all incidents of bullying, including suspected incidents, that victims may be too frightened to report.
- Everyone should support each other and seek help to ensure that everyone feels safe, and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school.

## **PARENTS**

Parents can support school by:

- Supporting our anti-bullying policy and procedures.
- Discussing with their child's teacher/Headteacher any concerns that their child may be experiencing bullying.
- Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside school.
- Providing feedback about whether an issue has been addressed successfully or not.

## **CYBER BULLYING ADDITION TO ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School, we take this type of bullying just as seriously and, therefore, will deal with each situation individually.

Technology allows the user to bully anonymously or from an unknown location, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyber-bullying leaves no physical scars so it is, perhaps, less evident to a parent or teacher, but it is highly intrusive and the hurt it causes can be very severe.

Young people are particularly adept at adapting to new technology, an area that can seem a closed world to adults. For example, the numerous acronyms used by young people in chat rooms and in text messages (POS – Parents Over Shoulder, TUL – Tell you later) make it difficult for adults to recognise potential threats.

Incidents of cyber-bullying may occur outside of school but often have repercussions during school hours and therefore, members of staff have an obligation to deal with them.

Pupils are taught to:

- Understand how to use these technologies safely and know about the risks and consequences of misusing them.
- Know what to do if they or someone they know are being cyber bullied.
- Report any problems with cyber bullying. If they do have a problem, they can talk to the school, parents, the police, the mobile network (for phone) or the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to do something about it.

If you're being bullied by phone or the Internet:

- Remember, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent or call an advice line.
- Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- Don't give out your personal details online – if you're in a chatroom watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you build up a picture about you.
- Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.
- If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender.

## **EVALUATING OUR POLICY**

Incidents of bullying are routinely recorded. The recordings can be monitored to reveal the frequency of incidents. Annually, the feelings about bullying will be evaluated through a pupil questionnaire.

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if necessary.