



ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, RAMSBOTTOM **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

Mission Statement

Our school is proud to be part of the Roman Catholic Church in the parish of St Joseph's. Our mission is to serve God, uphold the worth and dignity of every person and enable them to develop their talents. Everything we do is rooted in the values of the Gospel, as we seek to deepen faith, strengthen hope and grow in love in a respectful, safe and happy environment.

OVERVIEW

At St Joseph's bullying and other forms of unacceptable intimidation, including bullying due to sexual orientation or transgender issues, cyber bullying by internet or mobile phone, will not be tolerated. All will treat others with kindness and respect and all will care well for each other. All will come to school without fear and they will be happy and safe in school. Everyone will be vigilant and they will act promptly to intervene if there are any signs or reports of bullying of any kind.

Definition

Bullying is 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 (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet).

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that all feel safe and free from bullying and intimidation especially peer to peer bullying or abuse.
2. To identify and protect vulnerable pupils and groups including those with special educational needs or disabilities; those going through a personal or family crisis; those suffering from a health problem; ethnic minority groups; children in care and those with caring responsibilities.
3. To ensure that under the duties of the 2010 Equality Act all pupils identified with protected characteristics will be safeguarded from bullying- these include disability; gender reassignment; homosexual, bi-sexual, trans-sexual, sexual orientation race; religion or belief.
4. To ensure that all children understand what bullying, including cyber bullying is.
5. To build an ethos where learners feel safe and free from threat and intimidation.
6. To promote good relationships where all are treated well and where learners care for each other.
7. To act promptly and effectively at the first sign of bullying including cyber bullying.
8. To encourage learners and parents to report any attempted bullying.
9. To protect and reassure any victims of bullying.
10. To have effective sanctions to deter bullying and to have successful strategies to reform bullies.
11. To make this a happy school that is free from bullying of any kind including cyber bullying.

STRATEGIES

1. We will use our behaviour policy effectively to promote good behaviour so that there is an ethos where bullying is unacceptable.
2. All will be expected to be vigilant and to intervene immediately and effectively if any bullying is observed or reported.
3. Learners will be encouraged to report bullying and when they do they will be listened to and taken seriously.
4. Any allegation of bullying will be investigated and followed up.
5. Any cyber bullying of staff or pupils, in or out of school, must be reported and then investigated rigorously, in conjunction with any relevant authority including the police if appropriate.

6. Any victim of bullying will be well protected immediately and in the future.
7. Any allegations of bullying will be reported to the headteacher and records will be kept.
8. PSHE and circle time will be used to discuss bullying and to ensure that all are aware that bullying is never acceptable and that the victim must always report it to parents, staff or friends.
9. We will use the school's discipline and rewards strategy to reinforce this anti-bullying policy.
10. Learners and their parents/carers will be made aware of this policy.
11. The parents of all concerned will be informed and involved in any reported incident and they will be expected to support this school policy.

Staff Responsibilities

Where an incidence of bullying is either suspected or identified the class teacher(s) must be informed immediately. He/She will make the initial decision whether to deal with the situation within the classroom, or to request that the Headteacher (or, in her absence, the Deputy or Assistant Head) to deal with it. The decision will be based upon a number of criteria:-

- the severity of the offence or accusation
- any previous history
- the teacher's personal knowledge of the personalities involved
- the length of time required to resolve the problem
- whether pupils from more than one class are involved.

Preventative Measures

- The Catholic ethos of the school aims to reduce bullying.
- The topic is dealt with in assemblies, RE and PSHE/Circle Time.
- The school rules are displayed and discussed. Children are supported in adhering to it.
- Reward systems promote positive behaviour.
- There is careful supervision of pupils in the school and playground.
- Staff set a good example.

Giving Children a Plan to Deal with Bullying

At St Joseph's we tell the children that if they think they are being bullied, to NO-GO-TOLD;

1. To look the bully in the eye and say, "No."
2. To get away as quickly as they can, 'GO'.
3. To tell an adult, 'TOLD'.

OUTCOMES

St Joseph's has a warm, friendly, welcoming and safe ethos. It is a place where bullying is not tolerated and where we treat others as they themselves would expect to be treated. Particular care is taken of vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs or disabilities; those going through a personal or family crisis; those suffering from a health problem; ethnic minority groups; children in care and those with caring responsibilities. We are committed to meeting the individual needs of each child. Under the 2010 Equality Act all protected characteristics will be recognised and acceptance taught as an embedded aspect in all areas: these will include disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

September 2021