



# **St Patrick's C of E Primary School**

## **Anti- Bullying Handbook for Parents**

At St Patrick's C of E Primary School , we believe that each person in our school community should be valued and respected. Our goal is for each child to gain a sense of responsibility and self- discipline and a pride in personal and school achievement. We are committed to maintaining high expectations of good behaviour as an essential contribution to the educational experience of our children and to their happiness and wellbeing while in school.

Our aim, in line with Every Child Matters, is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

### **What is bullying?**

"Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally."

Specific types of bullying include:

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture
- Bullying related to special educational needs or disabilities
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions
- Bullying related to home circumstances

□ Bullying related to sexual orientation

□ Sexist or sexual bullying

DCSF Guidance

**Bullying usually falls into two categories:**

1. Emotionally harmful behaviour, such as taunting, spreading hurtful rumours and excluding people from groups, or cyber-bullying

2. Physically harmful behaviour, such as kicking, hitting, pushing or other forms of physically abusive behaviour

The behaviour constitutes bullying if:

□ It is repetitive, wilful or persistent

□ It is intentionally harmful, carried out by an individual or group

□ There is an imbalance of power leaving the person being bullied feeling defenceless

**What is Cyberbullying?**

Cyberbullying can be defined as, “the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else”

DFE Guidance

At St Patrick's C of E Primary School, we take any complaints about cyberbullying very seriously and these will be investigated thoroughly. The children will be informed at least yearly about this type of bullying in assembly time and in lessons.

### **Children are made aware of the following:**

- It is wrong to send messages that will deliberately upset another person
- Messages via the internet or by phone are not anonymous and in many cases, can be traced and used in evidence
- If messages like this, even though written by someone else, are passed on to others, then this will also be considered to be bullying.

Parents will also be informed each year about cyberbullying and e-safety through the school's newsletter. If a child reports an incident of cyberbullying or is accused of this type of bullying, parents will be informed. In some cases, the school may have to inform the police who will become involved in the process. The school continues to promote the positive use of technology at all times.

### **What is Homophobic Bullying?**

Anyone can be targeted for homophobic bullying and the school aims to raise awareness with pupils, parents and carers as part of the general anti-bullying strategy. The use of homophobic language e.g. "those trainers are so gay" will not be tolerated. The incident will be recorded and the perpetrator made aware of the inappropriate use of language. However, if it is repeated, it will be treated by staff as a serious incident in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

### **What is bullying linked to Race, Religion and Culture?**

As with any other incident of bullying, staff will ensure that if a report of racism is made, they will support the victim sensitively.

The incident will be reported to the Headteacher to be investigated. If the incident is found to be racist in nature, even if it is deemed to be of a relatively minor nature, appropriate action will be taken, including alerting parents. The Headteacher will complete the Local Authority Racist Incident Form, which is held centrally. Names are not recorded.

### **What do I do if I am concerned that my child is being bullied?**

If your child tells you they feel they are being bullied, you can support them by just listening to them, and encouraging them to tell a member of staff when something happens. You should keep a record of any incidents and report these straight away to your child's class teacher so that they can be investigated. An appointment with staff or the Headteacher can be made by through the School Office. Any incident of bullying will be reported by staff to the designated person (the Headteacher), and investigated. You will be kept informed of further actions taken.

It is recognised that if your child tells you they are being bullied, it can make you feel anxious, frustrated and powerless when these incidents are happening at school. Once an accusation of bullying is made however, we will do all we can to ensure that your child is regularly monitored and encouraged to tell if an incident occurs. All incidents will be recorded and investigated and appropriate action taken.

Your child is likely to feel quite anxious and vulnerable so encouraging high self-esteem is really important. Supporting enjoyable out of school activities which develop assertiveness and friendships can also be valuable. As well as those clubs found in the

local community, we have morning and after-school clubs for children to attend.

**What support is there for children and parents during and immediately after bullying has been reported?**

Children who have been the victim of bullying will be supported appropriately at St Patrick's School so that they feel that they have been listened to and that they have some control over the situation they find themselves in. They will be involved in discussions to ensure that actions are seen as positive and support the child. This may include keeping an eye on the child at break/ lunch time to regular sessions each week. All staff involved with the child will be kept informed of the agreed actions.

Although the school has a range of strategies to support children who have been bullied, all incidents are dealt with on an individual basis. Support will also be provided to the perpetrator of bullying incidents to ensure that they are aware of their inappropriate behaviour and so they can change their behaviour.

**What do we do at St Patrick's C of E Primary School to prevent bullying behaviour?**

Every year, the whole school follows an anti-bullying theme in personal, social and health education lessons. Resources such as posters and films are used as well as circle time and drama activities. This is supported by a lead assembly and the promotion of materials produced for the National Ant-Bullying week.

In lessons, children are encouraged to tell if they are being bullied or if they know that someone else is being bullied.

We recognise that unfortunately bullying occurs in every school. So at St Patrick's, in addition to responding to incidents of bullying, we

survey the children every year, asking if they feel safe from bullying in and around school, in the playground as well as coming to and from school. We also ask if they know who to go to if they feel they are being bullied.

We have recently employed a Learning Mentor to work alongside the children for three lunch times. As part of her role, she will be monitoring the playground, chatting to children who may seem lonely and gets involved with any disputes that may occur to ensure they are dealt with effectively. The Learning Mentor is likely to be involved with the child and parents/carers as part of the agreed action if a child is being bullied. Our mid-day supervisors are made aware of children who may be experiencing difficulties and so that they know how to deal more effectively with children on the playground.

Staff at St Patrick's School take all incidents of reported bullying seriously and take steps to ensure that pupils in their care who experience difficulties, are treated sensitively.

There are several websites that provide information for parents, such as the following:

[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk).

<http://www.antibullying.net/parentsfamilies.htm>