

St.Mary's RC Primary School

Chepstow



Anti-Bullying Policy

18.11.14

School Mission Statement:

Learning for Life with Christ as our Light

School Vision Statement:

Based on our Catholic faith, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School seeks to promote the Gospel message of Jesus Christ as the foundation of its existence

We, as a caring community of learning, combine innovation and tradition to enable each individual to achieve their full potential.

As a school we:

Teach the Catholic faith, to help children grow in all aspects of their spiritual and moral development.

Recognise and encourage the uniqueness and value of each individual, by nurturing and developing each child's selfworth and ability.

Provide a balanced, differentiated and relevant curriculum in pursuit of high academic excellence.

Help create a Christian community, uniting the home, the school, the Catholic parish and the wider community

Welcome children of all faiths to join the school community.

St Mary's RCP Children Say;

* We will not put up with bullying in our school

* We will ALL help to stop bullying.

* We will help bullies to change.

* We will tell others if we are bullied, we won't be afraid to tell, we know we will get help and be protected

* We won't play rough games that we know will frighten or hurt others

* We won't stand back and watch someone being bullied, we will tell a teacher or another adult straight away

• Our school seeks to be a non-bullying school, if we are bullied or see someone being bullied we will make sure it is stopped

• When we say bullying, we all know we mean anything that is done on purpose to frighten, upset or threaten someone.

• Bullying is wrong, we should be kind to each other, as Jesus showed us how.

• We have our own '**Code of Conduct**' and we will try to live by it

Definitions of Bullying

Bullying is sustained deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time, making it difficult for the person concerned to defend themselves.

Bullying can take many forms but the three main types are:

- (i) physical ~ hitting; kicking; taking belongings
- (ii) verbal ~ name calling; insulting; making offensive remarks
- (iii) indirect ~ spreading nasty stories about someone; exclusion from social groups; being made the subject of malicious rumours

The school works hard to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and simply 'falling out'.

What To Look For

If a child is being bullied they may present some of the following symptoms.

- * The child may be reluctant to come to school
- * The child might start complaining of illness.
- * The child might be reluctant to go out at play time / always offer to do something which means less yard time.
- * The child may be tearful / disruptive.
- * The child's property may go missing/ dirty or torn clothes/ lost bag or coat.
- * The child starts to do poorly in school work
- * The child appears isolated in the classroom

Whilst the above may not be indicators of bullying, they are certainly indicators all is not well, and need to be investigated.

Actions to Tackle Bullying

At St.Mary's we will be vigilant for signs of bullying and always take reports of incidents seriously. We will use the curriculum whenever possible to reinforce the ethos of the school and help pupils to develop strategies to combat bullying type behaviour.

Each year Anti-Bullying is a feature of our SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme. Caring for others is an intrinsic element of all Religious education teaching at St.Mary's.

Pupils are told that they must report any incidence of bullying to an adult within school, and that when another pupil tells them that they are being bullied or if they see bullying taking place it is their responsibility to report this to a member of staff.

All reported incidents of bullying will be investigated and taken seriously by staff members. A record will be kept of all incidents.

If bullying includes racist abuse then it should be reported to the Head Teacher to be recorded in the Racial Incident Book.

Strategies to deal with incidents of bullying

We will always adopt a caring, Catholic and listening approach to any reported incident of bullying as bullies can also, quite often, be victims too.

Upon discovery of an incident of bullying, we will discuss with the children the issues appropriate to the incident and to their age and level of understanding. If the incident is not too serious, a problem solving approach may help. The member of staff should remain neutral and deliberately avoid direct, closed questioning which may be interpreted as accusatory or interrogational in style.

Each pupil must be given an opportunity to talk and the discussion should remain focused on finding a solution to the problem and stopping the bullying recurring.

There are various strategies that can be applied if more than one pupil is involved in bullying another. Role play and other drama techniques can be used as well as Circle Time. If held regularly, this can be an effective way of sharing information and provide a forum for discussing important issues such as equal rights, relationships, justice and acceptable behaviour. It can also be used just within the affected group to confront bullying that already exists.

Victims need to feel secure in the knowledge that assertive behaviour, and even walking away can be effective ways of dealing with bullying. Setting up a buddy system, or peer counseling possibly with pupils who already hold a position of responsibility, such as School Council members can also be beneficial.

Sanctions for dealing with perpetrators of bullying

- (i) removal from the group (in class)
- (ii) loss of playtimes and or lunchtimes
- (iii) withdrawal from school visits or trips
- (iv) fixed term exclusion from school or in extreme cases permanent exclusion

Parental Involvement

The parents of bullies and their victims will be informed of an incident and the action that has taken place and asked to support strategies put in place to tackle the problem. The bully will also be reminded of the possible consequences of bullying and the sanctions for repeated incidents will be clearly explained to him/her.

School Environment

We will continually work to create a playground environment which is secure, safe and easily supervised. This will promote:

- (i) purposeful recreation and reduced boredom
- (ii) reduced playground aggression
- (iii) increased imaginative play
- (iv) improved social skills through the provision of 'quiet areas'

We will provide training for all those who are in a supervisory role to encourage more positive relationships and communication between children, teachers and midday supervisors.

The children felt that they were bullied, It would have gone beyond the point where they would be able to deal with ft themselves. They needed to know that;

- 1) They would be listened to.
- 2) They would not be branded 'tell tales'.
- 3) That the bullying would stop.

Signed: _____ (Head Teacher)

Signed: _____ Chair of the Governing Body

Date: _____

Review date: _____