

WHOLE SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (Junior School)

“In the St Christopher community we all respect each other”

Definition of bullying

Bullying is any behaviour which causes pain or distress to another. Bullying can be caused through physical, verbal, visual or written means. It can include name calling, threatening, pressure to give or lend money or possessions, being unfriendly, taunts, gestures, excluding or ignoring, teasing, sarcasm, spreading rumours, abusive comments (including references to race, religion, gender and sexuality), physical acts (such as pushing, kicking, hitting etc), damaging possessions, cyber bullying (use of mobile phones e.g. texts, email and web space).

Aims and objectives of this policy

The School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. **BULLYING OF ANY KIND IS UNACCEPTABLE AT OUR SCHOOL.** If it does occur, all pupils should know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. There should be a climate in which pupils intervene themselves and TELL staff or another responsible adult.

Signs of Bullying

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour such as:

- Being frightened to walk to and from school
- Truancy
- Being unwilling to go to school
- Becoming withdrawn or lacking in confidence
- Changing usual routines
- Having nightmares
- Stopping eating
- Having possessions 'go missing'
- Beginning to produce poor school work
- Giving improbable excuses for any of the above

Procedures

1. Staff (including ancillary staff) should always respond to any bullying behaviour, even apparently minor incidents such as remarks from one pupil to another. (These can often accumulate throughout the day and constitute an unbearable load). Staff should report incidents they pick up on to the relevant staff responsible for pastoral matters.
2. Pupils being bullied or observing bullying may:
 - speak to their parent/carer
 - speak to a member of staff –for the Junior School this is likely to be their class teacher or teaching assistant
 - speak to a Major Official/ peer counsellor or member of the Junior School Council

- speak to a friend to ask them to come with you to report it
- write a note and put it in the problems and suggestions box in the foyer
- Report it through email to: bullying@stchris.co.uk
- Contact Childline (0800 1111)

This information is also available in the on notices around the School. In the Junior School the subject of bullying is addressed in Morning Talks and in Circle Time in the classroom.

3. Parents should be informed in cases of serious bullying.
4. Attempts will be made to help bullies understand the effects of their behaviour and to change their behaviour and to reconcile bullies and victims (for example by the 'shared concern' method). Counselling may also be organised when appropriate.

PTO

The Curriculum

Staff should find opportunities to incorporate anti-bullying messages in areas of the curriculum for which they are responsible and in the lessons they teach. Bullying forms part of the PHSE curriculum in the Junior School and will be taught as part of the integrated topic approach across the curriculum.

Training

All members of staff have access to external in-service courses about bullying issues. In addition the School offers in-house training via regular discussion groups and in staff meetings.

What happens to Bullies?

- At St Christopher we try to make school a happy, safe place to be and we do not accept bullying in any form
- If you bully you will be found out; your parents/carers will be informed; it will be treated as a serious disciplinary matter
- Bullies will be offered help and support (e.g. staff mentoring or counselling)
- If a bully does not stop the bullying behaviour, they may be required to leave the school

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