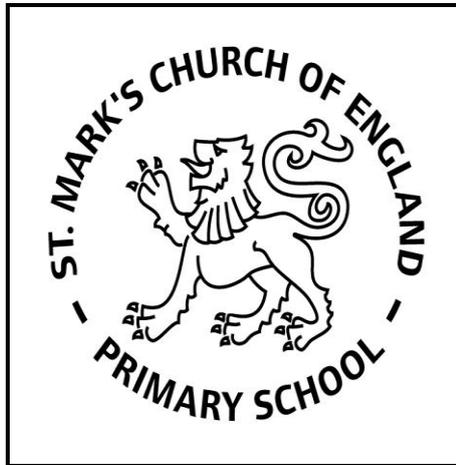


Anti-bullying Policy



*'Thy Word is a Lamp to my Feet
and a Light to my Path'
Psalm 119 v 105*

"Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day"



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Mark's CE Primary School **Policy for Anti-Bullying**

Governors and staff are committed to delivering the very best for our children. Our Vision is fundamental to our role as a Church of England School with its roots coming from the original blessing and verse presented to our school on its official opening in 1955.

***Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light
to my path.***

Psalm 119 Vs 105

The following five components describe the desired outcomes we offer through it.

- *Together, we will prepare you for life and learning*
- *Together, we will teach you to live within the values of God's word*
- *Together, we will safely lead you on your journey*
- *Together, we will guide you to a fulfilling future*
- *Together, we will forever help you to grow in confidence*

Any form of Bullying is unacceptable in this school and will not be tolerated.

At St Mark's we all value the good relationships within our school community. We nurture and encourage a climate where all children feel safe and confident. Through our curriculum and ethos we aim to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and emotional development of every child.

We do not tolerate bullying and expect that every allegation of bullying is taken seriously. All staff, pupils and parents should be aware of the negative effects that bullying can have on individuals and the school and should work towards ensuring that pupils can enjoy school without fear.

The school recognises that it must take note of bullying perpetrated outside school which could spill over into school. The school will do what is reasonably practicable to eliminate any such bullying. **We therefore take a very strong stance against bullying of any type.**

WHAT IS BULLYING (including definition, roles, styles, signs and symptoms)

Definition of Bullying

“Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally”.

There is no “hierarchy” of bullying – all forms of bullying should be taken equally seriously and dealt with appropriately. We understand that bullying can take place between pupils, between pupils and families; by individuals or groups; face-to-face, indirectly or using a range of cyber bullying methods. We understand that all children have disagreements with each other and friends fall out for a time. This is not usually bullying.

Four main types of bullying can be identified:

Physical hitting, kicking, taking or hiding belongings

Verbal name calling, teasing, insulting, writing or sending unkind notes or messages, including cyber-bullying (see later in policy).

Emotional being intentionally unfriendly, excluding, tormenting looks, spreading rumours.

Cyber email and internet chat room misuse, mobile phone threats by text, calls, and social websites.

Specific types of bullying include:

- Bullying related to race or colour, religion or belief or culture.
- Bullying related to special education needs (SEN) or disabilities.
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions.

- Bullying related to sexual orientation.
- Bullying of young carers or looked-after children or otherwise related to home circumstances.
- Sexist or sexual bullying.
- Bullying using electronic forms of contact (cyber bullying)

Roles within Bullying

Different roles within bullying have been identified:

- Those relying on social power, dominating others, often with group support (ring leader).
- Others joining in and therefore afraid of ring leader (associates).
- The awareness of a silent majority that bullying is taking place, but feeling unable to do anything about it (bystanders).
- Those who try to stop bullying (defenders).

Styles of bullying include:

- Intimidation and rude gestures.
- The 'look' – this is given as an example of non-verbal bullying.
- Threats and extortion.
- Malicious gossip and exclusion from the group.
- Telling tales with the express purpose of causing trouble.
- Threatening texts or messages in chat rooms.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a child:

- is unwilling to go to school;
- becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence;
- starts stammering;
- attempts or threatens self harm;
- cries his/herself to sleep at night or has nightmares/ bedwetting;
- regularly feels ill in the morning;
- begins to do poorly in school work;

- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged;
- has possessions go missing;
- has unexplained cuts and bruises;
- stops eating;
- is frightened to say what is wrong;
- is frightened of walking to or from school; or
- changes his/her usual routine.

All staff and parents should be aware of these possibilities and report promptly any suspicions of bullying to the appropriate person.

Working with Parents

All children need to feel safe; they need to know that they can talk to adults. If you suspect that your child may be being bullied please let the school know immediately, listen carefully to your child but try not to draw conclusions until you understand both sides of the story.

Working alongside the school is the only way to ensure your child achieves their potential. Fully supporting the school's behaviour policy and not encouraging children to hit back is important. Children will be taught other ways of sorting out difficulties and arguments.

If you are unhappy with the way things have been resolved or discussed, please let us know.

CYBER BULLYING

What is it?

- “Cyber-bullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself.”

Types of Cyber Bullying

There are 7 identified categories of cyber bullying:

- Text messaging bullying
- Picture/video clip bullying via mobile phone
- Phone call bullying via mobile phone
- Email bullying
- Chat room bullying

- Bullying via websites
- Bullying through instant messaging

Combating cyber bullying

- Protection from Harassment Act '97
- Malicious Communications 1988
- Telecommunications Act 1984

School Policy on Cyber Bullying

No pupil mobile phones are allowed in school except for pupils in Year 6.

However the school also acknowledges that many pupils have mobile phones outside school and to that end:

- The school arranges for the community police officer to come into school to talk about safe use of the net and mobile phones.
- The Head and safeguarding team meets with groups of parents –to ensure that they, as well as their children understand how to use technology safely, as well as the risks and consequences of mobile phone use.
- Staff have a duty to make sure that they are familiar with their role in dealing with cyber bullying.
- Victims should keep emails and text as evidence for tracing and possible police action.
- The school has a code of conduct for use of the net and access is screened by a variety of blocks which are updated regularly. This includes children and staff signing the Internet Acceptable use policy.
- Teachers must teach safe internet use and strictly apply all school policies.

St. Mark's believes that parental support and understanding in the safe use of the internet is an essential component in managing cyber bullying. The use of the web is an essential part of modern life and the young are the pioneers.

Balance and perspective are essential as is a whole community approach to ensuring safe use of the internet. The responsibility for this is both the schools in educating their pupils for safe use on the internet, and the parents' in understanding that they need to monitor and manage their children's use of the net.

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with a chosen member of staff (eg:named/key adult)
- Reassurance from class teacher and key staff
- Offering continuous support during investigation
- Restoring self-esteem and confidence

Pupils who have bullied will be helped by:

- Discussing what happened
- Discovering why the pupil became involved
- Establishing the wrong doing and need to change
- Informing parents or guardians to help change the attitude of the pupil

The following disciplinary steps can be taken:

- Parental meeting
- Official warnings to cease offending
- Loss of play and privileges
- Exclusion from certain areas of the premises
- Fixed term or permanent exclusion
- Referral to the Police

Within the curriculum the school will raise the awareness of the nature of bullying through inclusion in PSHE, circle time, assemblies and subject areas, as appropriate, in an attempt to eradicate such behaviour.

Useful websites for community use:

www.childnet.com

www.digizen.org

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Children will be taught that they must tell an adult if they are being bullied. In the case of Cyber bullying that they should not delete any bullying messages or texts, but they should never respond to these.

Every child at St Mark's has at least one named adult that they have selected as someone that they can confide in and speak to about any concerns they may have.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Reviewed and ratified by Governing body	Autumn Term 2025		
Next Revision (Please highlight as appropriate)	Annual	Biennial	Tri-annual
To be reviewed	Autumn Term 2026		