



St Alban's Anti-Bullying Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The school will endeavour to follow the latest guidance produced by the **Department for Education**, Preventing and Tackling Bullying (Oct 2014) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>
- 1.2 DFE guidance defines bullying as actions that are meant to be hurtful, and which happen on a regular basis. Bullying can be direct (either physical or verbal) or indirect (for example, being ignored or not spoken to) and committed through the use of modern technologies, including mobile phones and the internet, so called cyber bullying. Children are not allowed mobile phones in school, pupils must leave them with the office staff during the day.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 Bullying, including the use of modern technologies, cyber bullying, is wrong and damages individual children. We therefore do all we can to prevent it, by developing a school ethos in which bullying is regarded as unacceptable. The school will follow the latest available guidelines form
- 2.2 We aim, as a school, to produce a safe and secure environment, including a Virtual Teaching and Learning Environment to promote appropriate internet and ICT use in and out of school, where all stakeholders can learn without anxiety, and where measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of bullying.
- 2.3 This policy aims to produce a consistent school response to any bullying incidents that may occur.
- 2.4 We aim to make all those connected with the school aware of our opposition to bullying, and we make clear each person's responsibilities with regard to their duty within the spirit of the Gospel values in striving to love one another. We enlist pupils support in helping to eradicate bullying in our school.

3 The role of governors

- 3.1 The governing body supports the headteacher in all attempts to eliminate bullying from our school. The governing body will not condone any bullying at all in our school, and any incidents of bullying that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.
- 3.2 The governing body monitors incidents of bullying that do occur, and reviews the effectiveness of this policy regularly. The governors require the headteacher to keep accurate records of all incidents of bullying, and to report to the governors on request about the effectiveness of school anti-bullying strategies.
- 3.3 A parent who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with a bullying incident can ask the chair of governors to look into the matter. The governing body responds within ten days to any request from a parent to investigate incidents of bullying. In all cases the governing body notifies the headteacher, and asks him/her to conduct an investigation into the case, and to report back to a representative of the governing body.

4 The role of the headteacher

- 4.1** It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school anti-bullying strategy, and to ensure that all staff (both teaching and non-teaching) are aware of the school policy, and know how to identify and deal with incidents of bullying. The headteacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy on request. The headteacher will keep a regular record of all VTLE facilities to ensure fair usage.
- 4.2** The headteacher ensures that all children know that bullying is wrong, and that it is unacceptable behaviour in this school. The headteacher draws the attention of children to this fact at suitable moments. For example, if an incident occurs, the headteacher may decide to use an assembly as the forum in which to discuss with other children why this behaviour was wrong, and why a pupil is being punished.
- 4.3** The headteacher ensures that all staff, including lunchtime staff, receive sufficient training to be equipped to identify and deal with all incidents of bullying.
- 4.4** The headteacher sets the school climate of mutual support and praise for success, so making bullying less likely. When children feel they are important and belong to a friendly and welcoming school, bullying is far less likely to be part of their behaviour.

5 The role of the teacher and support staff

- 5.1** All the staff in our school take all forms of bullying seriously, and seek to prevent it from taking place.
- 5.2** Teachers keep their own records of all incidents that happen in their class, and that they are aware of in the school. If teachers witness an act of bullying, they will either investigate it themselves or refer it to the headteacher. Teachers and support staff do all they can to support the child who is being bullied. If a child is being bullied over a period of time, then, after consultation with the headteacher, the teacher informs the child's parents.
- 5.3** In the headteacher's room there is an anti-bullying logbook in which staff record all incidents of bullying that occur both in and out of class or within the ICT infrastructure, cyber bullying. We also record incidents that occur near the school, or on the children's way between school and home. Any adult who witnesses an act of bullying should record it in the logbook.
- 5.4** When any bullying taking place between members of a class, the teacher will deal with the issue immediately. This may involve counselling and support for the victim of the bullying, and punishment for the child who has carried out the bullying. Time is spent talking to the child who has bullied: explaining why his/her action was wrong, and that child is encouraged to change his/her behaviour in future. If a child is repeatedly involved in bullying other children, we inform the headteacher and the special needs coordinator. We then invite the child's parents into the school to discuss the situation. In more extreme cases, for example where these initial discussions have proven ineffective, the headteacher may contact external support agencies, such as the Education Welfare Service.

- 5.5 All members of staff routinely attend training, which equips them to identify bullying and to follow school policy and procedures with regard to behaviour management.
- 5.6 Teachers use a range of methods to help prevent bullying and to establish a climate of trust and respect for all. They use drama, role-play, stories etc., within the formal curriculum, to help pupils understand the feelings of bullied children, and to practise the restraint required to avoid lapsing into bullying behaviour. Circle time is used to praise, reward and celebrate the success of all children, and thus to help create a positive atmosphere.
- 5.7 As a school children will be constantly reminded about the dangers of the misuse of the internet and provided with a safe and secure platform which helps them to learn about the advantages of the Internet in a safe and secure environment.

6 The role of parents

- 6.1 Parents who are concerned that their child might be being bullied in any way, including the use of internet or cyber-bullying, or who suspect that their child may be the perpetrator of bullying, should contact their child's class teacher immediately. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should contact the headteacher. If they remain dissatisfied, they should follow the school's complaints procedure, as detailed in the school Prospectus.
- 6.2 Parents have a responsibility to support the school's anti-bullying policy, actively encouraging their child to be a positive member of the school.

7 The role of pupils

- 7.1 Pupils are encouraged to tell anybody they trust if they are being bullied, and if the bullying continues, they must keep on letting people know. This includes any incidents of misuse with the school's ICT network or the Virtual Teaching and Learning Environment. Mobile phones are not allowed in school.
- 7.2 Pupils are invited to tell us their views about a range of school issues, including bullying, in the annual pupil questionnaire.
- 7.3 Our School Council has developed its own anti-bullying code.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1 This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the headteacher, who reports to governors on request about the effectiveness of the policy.
- 8.2 This anti-bullying policy is the governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness annually. They do this by examining the school's anti-bullying logbook, where incidents of bullying are recorded, and by discussion with the headteacher. Governors analyse information for patterns of people, places or groups. They look out in particular for racist bullying, or bullying directed at children with disabilities or special educational needs.
- 8.3 This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Date: February 2015