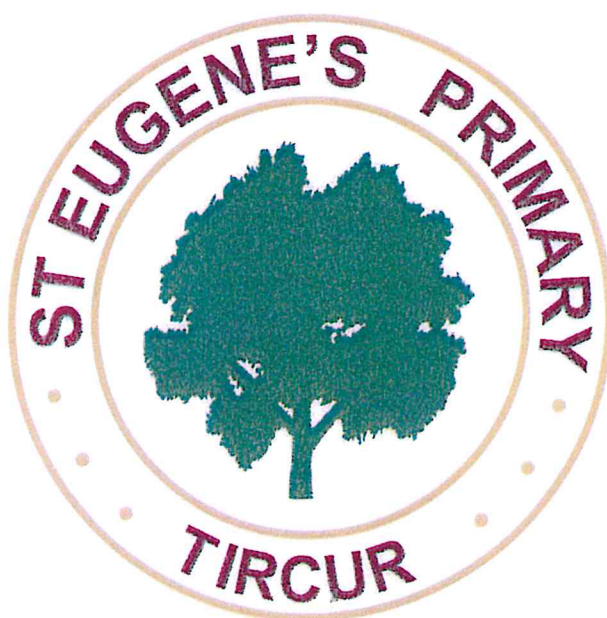


St Eugene's Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy 2018



Date:

Chairperson:

Principala:

Review :

St. Eugene's Primary School is committed to providing a safe, positive, valuing and inclusive environment for all members of the school community. All members of the school community have a right to work in a secure and caring environment. They also have a responsibility to contribute, in whatever way they can, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment.

We believe that all members of the school community are to be valued for their contribution and that each individual should show respect for others and themselves. An anti-bullying climate will be created through openness and consultation, where the views of all members of the school community are encouraged and considered. This school is completely opposed to any form of bullying and will not tolerate it. It is entirely contrary to the values and principles we work and live by.

AIMS

The anti-bullying policy and procedures play an important role in the provision of a safe, positive, valuing and inclusive environment for all. The policy forms part of the overall pastoral care provision in school and therefore links and works with the Pastoral Care, Child Protection, Positive Behaviour and ICT policies.

The aims of this policy are;

To develop an awareness among all staff of:

- The nature of bullying
- Signs of distress in pupils, which may indicate bullying
- Action to be taken

To seek to involve the whole school community, (pupils, teachers, ancillary and supervisory staff, parents and governors) and appropriate agencies in tackling it efficiently.

To combat bullying by having a clear message which encourages the whole school community, as above to talk about bullying

- As a preventative
- In response to particular incidents

To offer help, advice and support both for:

- The victim
- The bully

To create a school environment which is Telling, Listening and Responsive.

DEFINITION

"Bullying behaviour is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time where it is difficult for the victim to defend him/herself."

(DENI 1999 P.41)

- It includes actions that cause physical, emotional or mental hurt to the victim and actions that violate another person's freedom and rights.

- Bullying is an abuse of power where the person/s being bullied find it difficult to reject or deal with the offending behaviour, or those involved in the bullying behaviour have power over the victim/s. Some power imbalances can be subtle or build up over time, but more common examples include that they are bigger/stronger/older, have more friends, are more established in the school or care less about the consequences of their actions.
- Bullying may be perpetrated by individuals or by groups.
- Individual incidents of bullying are also important and should be recognised and dealt with as such.
- Bullying thrives on secrecy, the reluctance of the target to talk about it, and the reluctance of responsible adults to acknowledge its existence.

FORMS OF BULLYING

Bullying can take a number of forms including;

- Physical violence – such as hitting, pushing, kicking, hair pulling, spitting, threatening, throwing things or using implements to cause deliberate injury.
- Interfering with another's property – stealing, hiding, damaging.
- Using offensive names when addressing another pupil.
- Teasing or spreading rumours about others and or his/her family.
- Belittling another's abilities and achievements.
- Excluding others from group activity or play.
- Writing offensive notes or graffiti about someone.
- Ridiculing another's appearance, way of speaking, personal mannerisms, disability, race or colour.
- Intimidation including written/verbal threats, menacing looks.
- Extortion – making threatening demands, to make another feel uncomfortable or fearful.
- Cyber bullying – misuse of areas of the internet such as email and chat rooms. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology e.g. camera and video facilities.
- Calculated, repeated series of apparently minor incidents.

HURTFUL BEHAVIOUR

Not all hurtful behaviour is bullying, but all hurtful behaviour is unacceptable in school. The following are examples of *hurtful* behaviour which may not be bullying.

- Children may fall out with their friends and engage in hurtful behaviour. Such experiences can be extremely distressing to the individuals concerned.
- Children may retaliate against the hurtful behaviour of others.

Although not all hurtful behaviour is intentional, all hurtful behaviours are a matter of concern and will be dealt with by the school. Where pupils cause harm or distress without intent, the impact of their behaviour will be pointed out and any continuance will be regarded as intentional. Similarly, all unsafe behaviour will be dealt with.

Teachers can bully pupils through persistent and vindictive sarcasm, regularly holding a pupil up to ridicule, or making disparaging comments about his/her abilities, appearance or family, or inappropriately serve sanctions for misdemeanours. Such bullying behaviour is equally unacceptable in St. Eugene's Primary School.

CYBER BULLYING

The dangers of cyber bullying are clearly stated to all Key Stage 2 pupils and a special PSNI talk is given to pupils and parents on the effects of Cyber Bullying and safe use of the internet.

All pupils are aware of the consequences of such behaviour and the school has a zero tolerance to it.

The Governors also request that adults within the school community (both staff and parents) refrain from such behaviour. Notification of this will incur an immediate invitation to the next Board of Governors' meeting to explain the necessity of such action and to resolve the situation immediately.

SIGNS OF STRESS IN PUPILS WHICH MAY INDICATE BULLYING

- Deterioration of work, late for school, hanging back, staying late at school, "mislaid" books, equipment or belongings.
- Avoidance of specific lessons or day, e.g. swimming - games. Erratic attendance.
- Isolation and the desire to stay with adults.
- Spurious illness - non specific pains, headaches, tummy upsets.
- Erratic attendance.
- Nail biting.
- Flinching, jumpiness, forgetfulness, distractibility.
- Underachievement.
- Temper flare-up, abusive language - impulsive hitting out.
- Other stresses mentioned by parent, e.g. bed-wetting, sleep walking, continual need for extra money, repeated loss of personal possessions.
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Whilst this behaviour may be symptomatic of other problems, it may be the signs of bullying.

This is not an exhaustive list of behaviours.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the duty of the Principal that this Anti-Bullying Policy is brought to the attention of all staff and is operational throughout the school.

The Responsibilities of Staff

Our staff will:

- ✓ Foster in our pupils self-confidence, self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others;
- ✓ Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils;
- ✓ Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is bullied and to the bully, and the importance of telling an adult about bullying when it happens;
- ✓ Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying;
- ✓ Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously, record, and act to support and protect them;
- ✓ Talk with the child accused of bullying to determine nature of bullying;
- ✓ Report suspected cases of bullying to the Principal, Vice Principal or our Designated Teacher for Child Protection/Head of Pastoral Care;
- ✓ Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying, and report back promptly and fully on the action which has been taken; where a complaint is made in writing, the school should always respond in writing, even if this is to state matters are being dealt with;

- ✓ Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures.

The Responsibilities Of Pupils

We expect our pupils to:

- ✓ Follow school rules of behaviour and classroom beliefs;
- ✓ Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity;
- ✓ Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so;
- ✓ Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances;
- ✓ Help create a climate where bullying is not accepted;
- ✓ Value and respect others;
- ✓ Help others achieve;
- ✓ Keep others safe;
- ✓ Adhere to the agreed Code of Conduct.

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets.

What Pupils Need To Recognise About Bullying.

Pupils need to understand:

- ✓ They have a right not be bullied at school;
- ✓ They are not to blame if they are bullied;
- ✓ They need to speak out and should trust the teachers to take their concerns seriously and to help them;
- ✓ They are not alone.

The Responsibilities of Parents

We ask parents to support their children and the school by:

- ✓ Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying;
- ✓ Advising their children to report any bullying to their class teacher and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other pupils;
- ✓ Advising their children not to retaliate violently to any form of bullying;
- ✓ Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken;
- ✓ Keeping a written record of any reported instances of bullying;
- ✓ Informing the school of any suspected bullying, even if their children are not involved;
- ✓ Co-operating with the school, if their children are accused of bullying, try to ascertain the truth, and point out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves.

The Responsibilities Of All

Everyone should work together to create a safe, happy and anti-bullying environment in our school.

PROACTIVE STRATEGIES USED BY STAFF TO PROMOTE ANTI-BULLYING

- Questionnaires - Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2 / Parents (Sample)
- Circle Time
- School Ethos - School Golden Rules
- Recognising and Rewarding Good Behaviour
- Improved Supervision of "Hot Spots" - Use of School Buddies
- Curricular Provisions through PDMU, UICT, use of stories/character studies/role play
- Parental Communication
- Peer Support Schemes
- School Assemblies
- Home School Partnerships
- Awareness of Rights
- Anti Bullying Policy & Antibullying Week (BLUE Day)
- Staff Training/Effective Communication
- Agreed classroom/whole school rules and behaviour
- Use of outside agencies e.g. PSNI, Childline, NSPCC
- Class and School Councils

At all times children's concerns are our concerns.

The school's Positive Behaviour Policy details the behaviour standards set within the school.

Pupils are encouraged to express their concerns about themselves and others and to seek help and support whenever they need it. However, some children can sometimes be reluctant to seek help, so pupils can report their concerns by using a Worry Box.

Assemblies and class Circle Time will be used to reinforce positive anti-bullying messages and to raise issues concerning bullying within the context of a Christian message. Activities across the curriculum and visits from representatives of outside agencies will also be used to develop pupils' understanding of bullying. Children are taught that each person is unique and to be valued. Differences are to be celebrated and should not be the focus of negative behaviour. In order to build children's resilience and reduce their vulnerability, pupils are coached and guided in developing coping strategies and how to respond positively to hurtful behaviour. Pupils are encouraged to look out for each other and to report their concerns for others.

REACTIVE STRATEGIES

- "No Blame" Approach
- Time spent talking with bullied and bullying pupils
- Sanctions that are agreed and proportionate
- W.I.S.H. Boxes

All incidents of bullying must be reported to the Principal and all such reports will be taken seriously. The school recognises that speed of response is important and wherever possible incidents will be resolved quickly. However, significant incidents will involve investigation and time may be required to reach a resolution. At all times during this, the school will take steps to ensure the safety of the pupil who feels bullied.

Bullied pupils will be reassured that they are not in any way to blame (unless there is good reason to think otherwise). Support and protection will be given.

A child who has been involved in bullying behaviour will be expected to take responsibility for their actions. The reasons for their behaviour will be explored and they will be expected to improve and change. They will be encouraged to think and talk about the implications of their behaviour for the

pupil who was their target. Discussion should also involve the pupils' parents to identify any relevant background information and to secure their support. It may also be necessary for the involvement of the SENCO to address any behavioural problems through a behavioural programme. The aim will be to resolve incidents, rebuild relationships and restore a safe environment for all. Incidents will be resolved in age-appropriate ways and any sanctions will be in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING

The Principal, in conjunction with the Pastoral Care Coordinator, will ensure that all staff are familiar with this policy and that any training of staff is arranged and updated as necessary. Any material resources required by staff will be budgeted for.

MONITORING & EVALUATING

Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying policy is the responsibility of the Principal. This policy will be reviewed annually. It will be reviewed by the whole staff and as we value the input of the whole community, parents/carers and pupils will be surveyed to gauge opinions on the effectiveness of the policy. The reviewed draft policy will be brought to the Board of Governors for approval.