Anti-Bullying Policy

Adopted September 2026

Review September 2027

Version 1.6

ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
ANTI-BULLYING POLICY (1.6)

DEFINITION

What is bullying?

There are many definitions of bullying, but in school we define it as

'Repeated deliberate attempts by an individual or a group to hurt, torment, threaten, frighten, isolate or upset another person.'

Bullying can be

- Emotional — being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical — pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Verbal — name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber — internet eg email, chat rooms misuse/mobile phone threats by call or text/misuse of any associated technology eg cameras

Possible causes of vulnerability can include:
Race/ sex/ class/ religion
New child in school
Child with family crisis
Disability or difference of any kind
Ability (eg. academic/sporting)

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 that they should investigate if a child

- is frightened of walking to, or from, school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- begins to wet the bed
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to show deterioration in school work
- has torn clothes or possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous and/or jumpy when a cyber message is received

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and be investigated. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

We believe that everybody has a right to come to school and be safe from unkindness, threats and violence.

As a school we are committed not only to dealing with bullying but to doing all that we can to prevent it happening in the first place. We seek to build self-esteem in children and to develop tolerance of others. We use curriculum time during Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons to explore issues around bullying and consider other people's points of view. Our aim is to raise awareness about bullying, our anti-bullying policy and the strategies of support we have in school. We also teach children about relationships with others.

We regard bullying as serious. We encourage children to speak to an adult in school if they are being bullied and promise that the disclosure will be taken seriously and acted on. If they are approached by a child, all adults have the responsibility to listen and pass on details to the relevant teacher and the headteacher/deputy headteacher. The teacher and/or headteacher/deputy headteacher will then investigate and follow up. They will keep all the appropriate people informed during the period of investigation and follow-up. Once the investigation has been completed the action that is required will be determined and communicated to all appropriate people.

We will make children and parents aware of the school's policy on bullying and assure them that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

Bullying will not be tolerated.

Bullying, attitude to others, and similar themes are used regularly in school assemblies.

We use Circle Time and PSHCE lessons in all classes to help our children to

- Communicate need
- Understand the needs of others
- Increase in confidence
- Raise self-esteem
- Encourage the caring and nurturing side of children
- Work towards a caring, co-operative ethos
- Work towards building children's self esteem
- Discuss friendships
- Ensure adequate provision in the playground
- Reward appropriate behaviour
- Provide good role models

THE ROLE OF THE CHILD

If you feel you are being bullied

- Talk to an adult in school that you trust and take a friend if it helps
- Don't listen to the bully when they say that you will be in trouble if you talk to someone
- You aren't doing anything wrong – the bully is!
- What you say will be passed on to your teacher
- You will be taken seriously

If you see someone being bullied at school

- The best thing you can do to help is to talk to an adult
- Don't listen to the bully when they say that you will be in trouble if you talk to someone

THE ROLE OF TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF

If a child comes to you and says they are being bullied in school

- Listen to what he/she says
- Take it seriously
- Record what is said
- Pass the information on to the child's teacher and headteacher/deputy headteacher
- Make it clear that telling is the right thing to do
- Explain it may not be possible to keep everything we are told a secret
- Monitor those children involved in the future

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

If your child is being bullied or is bullying in school

- Contact the school and ask to speak to the class teacher or headteacher/deputy headteacher
- Share the problem with the staff member
- Support your child
- Support school policy
- Encourage caring, co-operative behaviour
- Be a good role model

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If for any reason a parent is not satisfied with the way an incident has been dealt with by the school, he/she has the right to complain in line with the school's complaints procedure.