



**St John's**  
School Billericay

# **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Date: September 2024  
Those Responsible: Mr A Angeli - Headteacher  
Mrs A Fleming - Deputy Headteacher

To be reviewed: August 2025

## **RATIONALE**

Bullying of any form will not be tolerated at St John's School. All members of our school have a right to work in a secure and caring environment where mutual respect and tolerance are shown. All members of our school also have a responsibility to contribute to the protection and maintenance of such an environment.

## **DEFINITION OF BULLYING**

Bullying is anti-social behaviour perpetrated by an individual or group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. It is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example, on grounds of race, religion, culture, sex, gender, homophobia, special educational needs and disability. It can take a number of forms; physical, verbal, extortion, and by use of technology (Cyberbullying) and usually involves an imbalance of power.

### **FORMS OF BULLYING**

- Physical violence such as hitting, pushing or spitting at another pupil
- Interfering with another pupil's property, by stealing or damaging it.
- Using offensive names when addressing another pupil or when talking about another pupil
- Belittling another pupil's abilities and achievements
- Writing offensive notes or graffiti about another pupil
- Ridiculing another pupil's appearance, way of speaking or personal mannerisms
- Inappropriate text messaging and emailing
- Sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet
- Using social media for any of the above

### **SPECIFIC TYPES OF BULLYING**

- Bullying related to race, religion or culture
- Bullying related to SEN or disabilities
- Bullying related to appearance or health conditions
- Bullying related to sexual orientation
- Sexist or sexual bullying

### **LINKS WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES**

Child Safeguarding Policy, Acceptable Use of the Internet policy, Behaviour Policy, Exclusion Policy

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### The Responsibilities of Staff

Our staff will:

- Foster self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others
- Demonstrate the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils
- Discuss bullying with all classes through the PSHE programme, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes and the importance of reporting any cases to a teacher
- Listen to children who feel they have been bullied and act to support and protect them
- Report suspected cases to the class teacher, form teacher or pastoral lead.
- Follow up on any complaint by a parent about bullying
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively.

### The Responsibilities of Pupils

We expect our pupils to:

- Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying, both in school and through the means of social media
- Report to any member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying
- Remember that being a bystander is not acceptable

Anyone who becomes the target of bullies should:

- *Tell a teacher or another trusted adult immediately so that support can be put in place quickly*

### The Responsibilities of Parents

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

- Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which may or may not be due to bullying but should always be raised with staff
- Advising their child to report any cases of bullying, whether witnessed or experienced, to their form teacher or the relevant pastoral head:  
**Mrs Revill (Kindergarten), Mrs Littlefield (Juniors), Miss Raynard (U3 and L4 Seniors), Mr Pritchard (U4 and L5 Seniors), Mrs Morgan (U5 Seniors).**
- Advising their child not to retaliate violently to any forms of bullying
- Monitoring their child's use of technology
- Co-operate with the school to help us ascertain the truth and ensure appropriate support can be given, whether to the child being bullied or the child perpetrating the bullying.

## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

The school will endeavour to prevent bullying through the following measures:

- Work in PSHE lessons and assemblies
- Providing suitable supervision of pupils when on the school site
- Obtaining the views of pupils through the school council
- Awareness raising programmes such as Anti-Bullying Week
- Ensuring that we are a listening school where pupils can easily report any issues.
- Responding quickly and effectively to any reports of bullying.

## PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

- Mrs Fleming will be informed of all incidents of bullying to ensure consistency
- In the event of a concern being raised the form tutor and relevant pastoral head will investigate the incident by talking to any pupils involved, including any witnesses. Detailed records will be kept of the investigation.
- Parents of those involved will be informed
- In the case of suspected Cyberbullying school staff may request a pupil reveal a message or show them other content on their phone for the purpose of establishing if bullying has occurred. A refusal to comply might lead to a disciplinary sanction for failure to follow a reasonable instruction. Where the text or image is visible on the phone, staff can act on this
- If bullying has been found to have taken place sanctions will be issued. These will reflect the severity and frequency of the incident. The sanctions used are:
  - Lunchtime detention
  - Afterschool detention
  - Being placed on report
  - Internal temporary exclusion
  - External temporary exclusion
  - Permanent exclusion

These are **not** a hierarchy of sanctions. Bullying is taken very seriously and the sanction will be determined based on the nature of the bullying, the response of the bully and the impact on the victim.

- If needed, outside support may be requested from relevant agencies, including social care and the police, particularly in the case of Cyberbullying in which the school will take advice from CEOP (Child Online Safety and Protection agency).

## SAFEGUARDING

- A bullying incident is treated as a safeguarding issue where there is a reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. In such cases the school will follow normal safeguarding procedures and report concerns to the local authority social care department.

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed annually, and feedback will be sought from staff. Procedures will be reviewed on a half-termly basis through meetings with the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher and pastoral team.