



St Peter's School

Anti-bullying Policy

Written by:	Headteacher	This version	June 2025
Approved by:	Governors	Next review due:	June 2026

Introduction

Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and the victims. It also affects those other children who watch, and less aggressive pupils can be drawn in by group pressure. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. It's clear that certain jokes, insults, intimidating or threatening behaviour, written abuse and violence are to be found in our society. No one person or group, whether staff or pupils, should have to accept this type of behaviour. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child best be able to benefit from the opportunities available at the School. This policy is based upon the advice found within Preventing and Tackling Bullying (DfE, July 2017)

Why is an anti-bullying policy necessary?

The School believes that its pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied. All institutions, both large and small, contain some numbers of pupils with the potential for bullying behaviour. If a school is well disciplined and organised, it can minimise the occurrence of bullying. The School also has a clear policy on the promotion of good citizenship, where it's made clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. It's **WRONG** and will not be tolerated. Bullying will be treated as a child protection concern when reasonable cause to believe a child suffering from or likely to suffer from significant harm.

What is bullying?

Bullying can occur through several types of anti-social behaviour. It can be:

a). Physical

A child can be physically punched, kicked, hit, spat at, etc.

b). Verbal

Verbal abuse can take the form of name calling. It may be directed towards gender, ethnic origin, physical/social disability, or personality, etc.

c). Exclusion

A child can be bullied simply by being excluded from discussions or activities, with those they believe to be their friends.

d). Damage to property or theft

Pupils may have their property damaged or stolen. Physical threats may be used by the bully in order that the pupil hands over property to them.

e). Cyber Bullying

All areas of the internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera, mobile telephone and tablet facilities

Prevention of Cyberbullying

Pupils aren't permitted mobile phones or personal gadgets at School. There is no general email access available to them at School. The School does however include advice to pupils about cyberbullying prevention, including advice provided by CEOP. Important times such as Internet Safety Day and Anti-Bullying Week are marked at the school. School staff keep abreast of information constantly being developed to inform adults as to strategies that cyber bullies employ or social networking sites which are dangerous. The School passes such information to parents, also providing them with pointers to where advice relevant to technology in the home is concerned. Cyberbullying is regarded as part of the School's Safeguarding procedures.

Pupils are encouraged to report incidents of cyberbullying if they occur at home or elsewhere. If reports are received they are quickly acted upon, parents are informed and the police may also be informed.

Pupils aren't permitted to use the ICT room or any laptop or device with internet access in School unsupervised.

What we tell pupils

Remember that your silence is the bully's greatest weapon!

- Tell yourself that you don't deserve to be bullied, and that it's **WRONG!**
- Be proud of who you are. It's good to be an individual.
- Try not to show that you're upset. It's hard but a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- Stay with a group of friends/people. There is safety in numbers.
- Be assertive - shout "No!" Walk confidently away. Go straight to a teacher or member of staff.
- Fighting back makes things worse. Instead, tell someone why you're feeling angry or scared.
- It's best to tell an adult you trust straight away. You'll get immediate support.

Teachers will take you seriously and will deal with bullies in a way which will end the bullying and won't make things worse for you.

If you know someone who is being bullied

- TAKE ACTION! Watching and doing nothing looks as if you're on the side of the bully. It makes the victim feel more unhappy and on their own.
- If you feel you cannot get involved, tell an adult IMMEDIATELY. Teachers have ways of dealing with the bully without getting you into trouble.
- Don't be, or pretend to be, friends with a bully.

As a Parent you should:

- Look for unusual behaviour in your children. For example, they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their normal standard.
- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they've spent their time with, how lunch time was spent etc.
- Inform the School IMMEDIATELY if you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- Advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse!
- Tell your own son or daughter there is nothing wrong with him or her. It's not his or her fault that they're being bullied.
- Make sure your child is fully aware of the School policy concerning bullying, and that they'll not be afraid to ask for help.

As a School we'll:

- Organise the community in order to minimise opportunities for bullying, e.g. provide increased supervision at problem times.
- Use any opportunity to discuss aspects of bullying, and the appropriate way to behave towards each other, e.g. the PSHEE programme or Anti Bullying Week.
- Deal quickly, firmly and fairly with any complaints, involving parents where necessary.
- Review the School Policy and its degree of success regularly
- Have a firm but fair discipline structure. The rules should be few, simple and easy to understand.
- Not use teaching materials or equipment which gives a bad or negative view of any group because of their ethnic origin, sex, etc.
- Encourage pupils to discuss how they get on with other people and to form positive attitudes towards other people. This includes a review of what friendship really is.
- Encourage pupils to treat everyone with respect.
- Reiterate that bullying will be treated as a serious offence and take every possible action to eradicate it from the community.
- Raise staff awareness through training, so that the principles of this policy are understood, legal responsibilities are known, action is defined to resolve and prevent problems, and sources of support available.

Actions we take

If bullying is suspected we talk to the suspected victim, the suspected bully and any witnesses. If any degree of bullying is identified, the following action will be taken:

Help, support and counselling will be given as is appropriate to both the victims and the bullies:

We support the victims in the following ways:

- by offering them an immediate opportunity to talk about the experience with their class teacher, or another teacher if they choose.
- informing the victims' parents or guardians.
- by offering continuing support when they feel they need it.
- by taking one or more of the disciplinary steps described below to prevent more bullying.

We also discipline, yet try to help the bullies in the following ways:

- by talking about what happened, to discover why they became involved.
- informing the bullies' parents or guardians.
- by continuing to work with the bullies in order to get rid of prejudiced attitudes as far as possible.
- by taking one or more of the disciplinary steps described below to prevent more bullying.

Disciplinary Steps

- They'll be warned officially to stop offending.
- The matter will be recorded by the Key Stage Leader and the Head will note it on the pupil's file
- Such recording will be monitored to check for repetition or patterns of behaviour or pupils involved.
- The bullies' parents or guardians will be informed.
- If they do not stop bullying they will be suspended for a minor fixed period.
- If they then carry on parents will be asked to remove the child from School permanently.

Help and Advice Organisations

Anti Bullying Alliance		http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/
Childline	0800 11 11	https://www.childline.org.uk/
Bullying UK	0808 800 2222	https://www.bullying.co.uk/
The Cybersmile Foundation	0203 9495592	https://www.cybersmile.org/
Kidscape		www.kidscape.org.uk
UK Safer Internet Centre		www.saferinternet.org.uk
Childnet		www.childnet.com/primary
Ditch The Label	01273 201129	
CORAM Children's Legal Centre	0808 802 0008	
KIDSCAPE Parents Helpline	020 7823 5430	
Family Lives	0808 800 2222	https://www.familylives.org.uk/
Bullying Online		www.bullyonline.org
National Crime Agency's CEOP Command		https://www.ceop.police.uk/
Resources from CEOP for young people		https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Review

This policy is monitored, reviewed and updated regularly and its effectiveness evaluated by the Pastoral Lead.