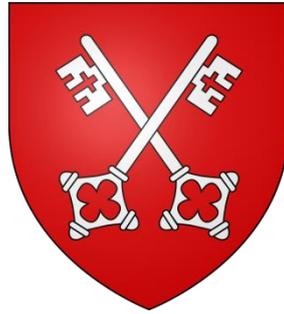


St Peter's School



"Together we hold the Keys to Success"

Counter Bullying Policy



St Peter's School Counter Bullying Policy

Everyone at St Peter's School has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. Only if this is the case will all members of the school community feel safe in to achieve their maximum potential. Bullying of any sort undermines this from happening and prevents equality of opportunity. It is everyone's responsibility to be pro-active and follow our guidelines in order to support this ethos.

Where bullying exists the victims must feel confident to activate the anti-bullying systems within the school to end the bullying. It is our aim to challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour, increase understanding for bullied pupils and help build and reinforce an anti-bullying ethos in the school.

This document outlines how we make this possible at St Peter's School. This policy applies to all members of our community.

Definitions of Bullying:

Bullying generally takes the form of emotionally or physically harmful behaviour. It can include:

- Name calling
- Taunting
- Threats
- Mocking
- Making offensive comments, humiliating someone
- Kicking, hitting, pushing
- Taking, damaging belongings
- Spreading rumours or constantly putting a person down
- Excluding someone from a group
- Using insulting racist language
- Unwanted physical contact
- Bullying by text, by email, on the internet or contributing to 'hate' websites.

Bullying is the abuse of power by one person over another. All the types of behaviour listed above are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at this school.

What is the impact?

Bullying has a destructive effect on the lives of an individual, not only the person being bullied, but also to the bully and those who stand by. It can lead to self-doubt, lack of confidence, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety or self-harm.

Our principles:

- Bullying in any form, of any person, is wrong and will not be tolerated
- All people have intrinsic value and worth and we embrace their uniqueness and autonomy
- We respect difference and welcome diversity and believe our work should be inclusive of all

- We believe that staff, pupils and parents within the school community should treat each other with respect and courtesy and have the right to be free from harassment, bullying or any other form of unacceptable behaviour
- We believe in creating a safe environment and that dealing with bullying is everyone's responsibility
- We believe individuals should actively participate in decisions that affect them and should be supported in taking responsibility for their choices
- We work using a range of strategies and actively challenge the use of humiliation, fear and ridicule

Expectations

The school will:

- Develop systems to integrate counter-bullying activity within the curriculum and daily function of the school.
- Work with pupils, parents, staff and the local community to counter bullying
- Model appropriate behaviour towards fellow members of the community
- Listen to and take seriously the concerns of individuals who report or share worries about bullying.

Parents are expected to:

- Take any concerns about bullying expressed by their children seriously
- To work with the school by supporting the school policy, principles and interventions in order to help solve the bullying
- To model appropriate behaviour towards staff, other parents and pupils within the school community

Pupils should:

- Understand that bullying is not an acceptable part of 'growing up'
- Report incidents of bullying affecting themselves or others

What does the school do?

Any report/allegation of bullying is taken seriously:

- Staff will listen to concerns and record the information on the school pupil log.
- Staff will work with the person who is being bullied to help them feel safe and to find responses to bullying that work
- Staff will work with individuals who are bullying to change the behaviour
- Staff will work with parents of both parties
- Staff may involve professionals from outside agencies
- Serious victimisation may result in pupil suspension from school

When is behaviour not bullying?

This policy covers bullying and how the school community can work together to solve this through counter-bullying systems.

It is quite common for the term 'bullying' to be misused and it is important to distinguish between bullying and simply "falling out" with friends. The staff will work with pupils to help

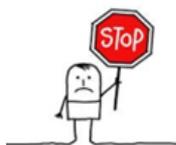
them to identify bullying behaviours and to ensure that all pupils know the difference between bullying and “falling out”.

The Department for Education, Sport and Culture defines the difference that make behaviours ‘bullying’, as opposed to ‘having a laugh’, venting frustration or a non-bullying incident of physical or verbal aggression as:

- **Repetition** of behaviour, with the purpose of **systematically** undermining a person **over a period of time**; and
- An **imbalance of power** between the person on the receiving end of the bullying and the person or persons doing the bullying i.e. one individual is in a weaker position and is less able to defend himself/herself.

We talk with the pupils about ‘**STOP**’ in reference to bullying; this helps them to understand that bullying is when someone is unkind to someone **repeatedly** and **deliberately**, and gives them a strategy to try to stop it happening.

**Several
Times
On
Purpose**



**Start
Telling
Other
People**



Bullying is something that happens **several times on purpose**. Please give this message to your child:

If people are being unkind **several times on purpose** tell them to **stop** and **start telling other people**.

St Peter’s School is committed to stopping bullying behaviour and to do this we need everybody’s help. If you have any concerns that another child who attends the school (eg a friend of your child) may be experiencing bullying, please do not turn a blind eye but mention this to a member of staff, so that the behaviour can be addressed. Any concern is worth sharing and will be treated seriously.



“Together we hold the keys to success for eradicating bullying”

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