



## **St Katharine's CofE Primary School**

### **Bullying Prevention Policy**

*From Little Acorns Great Oaks Grow*

Date of approval	July 24
Approved by	Niki Jones
Review date	July 25

## What is Bullying?

At St Katharine's Primary School, we define bullying as:

*"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face-to-face or online"*

There are 4 key elements to this definition:

- **Hurtful** [the behaviour hurts either physically, emotionally or psychologically]
- **Repeated** [the behaviour happens repeatedly, and this differentiates it from a one of aggressive event]
- **Power imbalance** [an individual or group uses their power to negatively impact upon another individual or group. Individuals may have more power because they are part of a larger group or because they are part of a majority group linked to gender, race, faith for example]
- **Intentional** [the behaviour is deliberate and intended to cause emotional/physical hurt/isolation/exclusion]

**Bullying behaviour can be:**

- **Verbal** - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, threats, teasing, belittling.
- **Physical** – pushing, poking, kicking, hitting, biting, pinching etc
- **Emotional** – isolating others, tormenting, hiding books, threatening gestures, ridicule, humiliation, intimidating, excluding, manipulation and coercion.
- **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact, inappropriate touching, abusive comments, homophobic abuse, exposure to inappropriate films etc.
- **Online /cyber** – posting on social media, sharing photos, sending nasty text messages, social exclusion
- **Indirect** - Can include the exploitation of individuals.

## What is cyberbullying?

There are some things that make cyberbullying different to 'traditional' bullying:






- 24-7 nature - the nature of online activity means you can be in contact at any time.
- There is the potential for a wider audience and bullying incidents can stay online, for example: a photo that you can't remove.
- Evidence - a lot of cyberbullying incidents allow those experiencing it to keep evidence - for example, take a screen shot - to show to school staff or police if needed.
- Potential to hide your identity - it is possible to hide your identity online which can make cyberbullying incidents very scary.
- Degree of separation - people who cyberbully often don't see the reaction of those experiencing it so it can sometimes be harder for them to see the impact of their actions.

*Cyberbullying is any form of bullying (definition above) that is carried out through the use of electronic media devices, such as computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, or gaming consoles.*

## What do we do at St Katharine's to prevent bullying?

- Bullying can be fuelled by prejudice. We work hard to create a culture where prejudice and hatred are not accepted. We do this through our every-day teaching, communication and general curriculum; through Collective Worship that promotes understanding of diversity and equality and through the texts and resources that we share with the children and through our PSHE and citizenship curriculum.
- We actively challenge comments, actions or ideas that are homophobic, transphobic, racist, sexist and disablist. Children understand these terms at an age-appropriate level.
- We teach children about different kinds of bullying, reasons why bullies might behave in the way they do and what they can do to stop it.
- We teach children how to cope with conflict through taught PSHE sessions and through restorative conversations when conflict arises. This includes an emphasis on how to report issues when they are serious or repeated.
- We have a 'worry box' in each classroom to help children report issues in writing if they are too worried to do it in person.
- We begin all staff meetings by sharing any 'need to know' concerns this ensures that relevant staff are kept in the loop.
- We take part in anti-bullying week giving children an opportunity to update their knowledge and understanding of what bullying is and what bullying isn't and the deeper understanding of how by-stander behaviours contribute to bullying when it occurs.

## What can I do if I'm worried that I am being bullied?

	<p>Ask your teacher if you can talk to them when everyone goes out to play. Tell them what's been going on. It doesn't matter if it's bullying or not, if it's making you feel bad then they will help.</p>
	<p>Some children feel worried that telling a teacher will make things worse. Our teachers are trained to help you in a careful way and to keep an eye on you afterwards to check it's all over.</p> 
	<p>If you are not sure what to say or you feel nervous about asking to see your teacher, you can write down your worry and put it in the worry box in your classroom. Your teacher will come and find you at a quiet and private time.</p>
	<p>You could ask Mrs Crewe, Mrs Crocker or Mrs Jowdie for a chat. They are our ELSAs (emotional, literacy support assistants) and have lots of ideas and expertise about how they can help you.</p>
	<p>You could tell a friend. They can help you give you advice about what to do next. They could offer to come with you when you talk to an adult. It can make it feel easier to go with someone your own age.</p> 
	<p>You could talk to a grown-up at home about how you are feeling. They will be able to talk to school and help you sort it out.</p>
	<p>Sometimes children are bullied by children out of school or on the internet or via mobile phones. We can still help with this in school, even if we don't know who the other children are. You can tell your teacher and they will know how to help you with this.</p> 
	<p>Sometimes children are bullied by a grown-up and this can even be a teacher or a parent. If this happens to you, you can talk to another adult in school such as your headteacher or a teaching assistant. They will listen to you and help to make sure that you are safe.</p>
	<p>You could call <b>ChildLine on 0800 1111</b>. They will listen to your worry and they are trained to help.</p>

## What can I do if I'm worried my child is being bullied?

If your child's teacher feels that your concern might meet the definition of bullying, they will refer the matter to the Principal and the bullying prevention pathway will be followed.

Your child's teacher may feel that your concern doesn't meet the definition of bullying but they will still be able to help resolve the matter and will still take action on your child's behalf. You should continue to communicate with the school until you feel the matter is resolved.

If you have concerns about your child in school, out of school or online, please do pop in and talk to your child's teacher. You will normally be able to do this informally after school or by asking them for a formal appointment. Your child's teacher will be able to work with you to establish whether your child might be experiencing bullying or has experienced a one-off negative event or on-going friendship issues. Whether it's bullying or not, if it is upsetting your child, they will want to help resolve it quickly.

## Anti-Bullying Pathway

**A bullying concern can be raised by the child who is the victim of negative behaviour, another child (including the child displaying the negative behaviour), a parent or a member of staff. All concerns will be dealt with swiftly, even if they do not meet the definition of bullying.**

A concern is brought to the attention of the school. If the issue is reported by a child, staff will contact parents (unless doing so would put the child at risk). Staff may decide to:

- Observe/investigate the situation more closely and book a follow-up appointment with parents (or refer to Principal).
- Deal with the concern as a single incident or friendship/social issue, in which case it will be dealt with using the behaviour policy rather than the Anti-Bullying pathway.
- Refer the matter to the Principal.

The Principal will establish what has taken place and put together a list of key incidents/issues, talking to key children involved and any other children who may have observed.

The child(ren) displaying the bullying behaviour will be spoken to and informed about the concern. The parents of the child(ren) displaying the bullying behaviour will also be informed of the concern by telephone and the consequences at this time and if the behaviour were to continue.

The issue will be raised at staff meeting and with midday staff and key staff will be nominated to observe and monitor the situation in lessons



and at break and lunch. Details from this monitoring will be shared with the Principal, who will continue to 'check-in' on the child who raised the concern.



If continued incidents are reported or witnessed though additional monitoring and observation, the child(ren) displaying the bullying behaviour will be invited to a formal meeting with their parents to address the matter. Sanctions and consequences will be discussed and agreed.  
At this point, the concern will be logged as a formal case of bullying and reported to the governing body.



Emotional Literacy Support will be offered to the child who has been on the receiving end of the bullying behaviour to help them unpick their feelings and/or help to restore any confidence they may have lost. Parents will always be consulted.

The child(ren) displaying the bullying behaviour may also be offered an Emotional Literacy Support Intervention where they will be able to access some support in unpicking the motivation behind their behaviour and different strategies they can use to make a change. Parents will always be consulted.



If bullying continues after additional support and warnings, this may result in internal exclusion although we would try to avoid this course of action if at all possible, by working with the child(ren) and parents to stop the bullying behaviour.



Several internal exclusions may result in a permanent exclusion (in line with the exclusion policy).

**\*All significant incidents of behaviour whether considered bullying or not will be recorded on CPOMs**