



St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Anti-bullying policy

Written by	Approved by	Date	Review date
Senior leadership team	Governing body	September 2026	September 2028



Introduction

Bullying affects everyone within the school community, not just those who engage in bullying and those who are targeted by it. It can also impact children who witness bullying, and some pupils who would not normally behave aggressively may become involved because of peer pressure.

Bullying is not an unavoidable part of school life or a normal stage of growing up, and it is unlikely to resolve itself without intervention. It is recognised that behaviours such as name-calling, insults, intimidation, threats, written abuse and physical violence exist within society. However, no member of the school community, whether pupil or staff, should be expected to tolerate such behaviour.

At **St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy**, we believe that pupils can only fully benefit from the opportunities available to them when all forms of bullying are effectively addressed.

Therefore:

- We do not tolerate bullying of any kind.
- Any reported or suspected incident of bullying will be taken seriously and fully investigated.
- Bullying involves behaviour that is repeated and directed towards the same person over time. A single incident may be unkind or hurtful, but it is not necessarily considered bullying.

Why is an Anti-Bullying Policy Necessary?

At our school, we believe that every pupil has the right to learn in a safe, supportive and caring environment, free from the fear of bullying. While all schools may have some pupils who are capable of displaying bullying behaviour, the likelihood of such incidents can be significantly reduced through effective organisation, clear expectations and a positive school culture.

The school actively promotes good citizenship and respectful behaviour, making it clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. Bullying is unacceptable, and it will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

It is therefore essential that the school has a clear and comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy. This ensures that pupils, parents and carers understand the school's commitment to preventing bullying and can be confident that any concerns or allegations of bullying will be addressed promptly, fairly and consistently.

What is Bullying?

Bullying can take many forms and may involve different types of harmful or anti-social behaviour. These can include:

a) Physical Bullying

This involves actions such as hitting, kicking, pushing, punching, spitting, or any other form of physical aggression towards another person.



b) Verbal Bullying

Verbal bullying includes name-calling, insults, teasing, or offensive remarks. Such behaviour may target a person's gender, ethnicity, disability, appearance, beliefs, or individual characteristics.

c) Social Exclusion

A pupil may experience bullying through being deliberately left out of social groups, conversations, activities, or friendships, causing them to feel isolated and rejected.

d) Damage to Property or Theft

Bullying may also involve damaging, hiding, or stealing another pupil's belongings. In some cases, intimidation or threats may be used to pressure a pupil into handing over their possessions.

What Can You Do if You Are Being Bullied?

Remember, keeping bullying a secret often gives the bully more power. Speaking to someone about what is happening is an important first step.

- a)** Remind yourself that being bullied is not your fault and that bullying behaviour is unacceptable.
- b)** Take pride in who you are. Everyone is unique, and differences should be valued and respected.
- c)** Try not to show how upset or frightened you feel. Although this can be difficult, bullies often seek a reaction from those they target.
- d)** Stay close to friends or trusted peers whenever possible. Being part of a group can help you feel safer and more supported.
- e)** Be confident and assertive. Say "No!" clearly and firmly, then walk away with confidence. Report the incident immediately to a teacher or another trusted member of staff.
- f)** Avoid responding with physical aggression, even if you feel angry or upset. Retaliating may escalate the situation. If you feel tempted to fight back, speak to a parent, carer, or member of staff for advice and support.
- g)** In most situations, it is best to tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. They can provide support and take appropriate action. School staff will listen to your concerns, take them seriously, and work to stop the bullying in a way that supports and protects you



What Can You Do If You Know Someone Else Is Being Bullied?

If you are aware that someone is being bullied:

a) Take action.

Standing by and doing nothing can give the impression that you support the bullying behaviour. It can also make the person being bullied feel even more isolated and unsupported.

b) Tell a trusted adult straight away.

If you do not feel confident intervening yourself, report your concerns immediately to a teacher or another trusted adult. School staff are trained to deal with bullying situations appropriately and can take action without placing you at risk.

c) Do not encourage the bully.

Avoid joining in with, supporting, or pretending to be friends with someone who is bullying others, as this may reinforce their behaviour.

As a Parent or Carer...

a) Be aware of any changes in your child's behaviour. For example, they may become reluctant to attend school, frequently complain of feeling unwell, or show a decline in the quality of their schoolwork.

b) Take an active interest in your child's school life. Regularly talk to them about their day, who they have spent time with, what they did at lunchtime, and how they are feeling at school.

c) If you suspect that your child is experiencing bullying, contact the school **immediately**. We will listen to your concerns, take them seriously, and ensure that appropriate action is taken.

d) Encourage your child not to retaliate or respond aggressively to bullying behaviour, as this may escalate the situation further.

e) Reassure your child that they have done nothing wrong and that being bullied is not their fault.

f) Ensure that your child understands the school's anti-bullying policy and knows that they should always seek help from a trusted adult if they are worried about bullying.

As a School we will...

a) Organise the school community in ways that reduce opportunities for bullying to occur, for example by providing increased supervision during identified problem times or in areas where concerns may arise.

b) Use every appropriate opportunity to address bullying and promote positive relationships. This may include through our **Religious Education Directory (RED) Curriculum** and the RSHE **Ten:Ten Life to the Full** programme, whole-school celebration of the word, themed weeks, weekly word of the week and class celebration of the word.

c) Respond promptly, fairly and consistently to any concerns or complaints, involving parents and carers where appropriate.



- d) Regularly review the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and evaluate its effectiveness.
- e) Maintain a firm, fair and consistent approach to behaviour management. School rules should be clear, easy to understand and applied consistently.
- f) Ensure that teaching materials, resources and equipment promote equality and do not present negative stereotypes or discriminatory views regarding race, ethnicity, sex, disability, religion or any other protected characteristic.
- g) Encourage pupils to talk about their relationships with others and to develop positive attitudes towards all members of the community. This includes helping pupils understand the qualities of healthy and supportive friendships.
- h) Encourage all pupils to treat one another with kindness, dignity and respect.
- i) Regard bullying as a serious matter and take all reasonable steps to prevent, address and eliminate bullying within our school community.

What action is taken when bullying is suspected?

Where bullying is reported or suspected, the school will take all concerns seriously and respond promptly, proportionately and consistently.

- The member of staff who receives the report or becomes aware of the incident will take immediate steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils involved and provide appropriate reassurance and support.
- The pupil who is alleged to have been subjected to bullying will be spoken to sensitively and given the opportunity to provide an account of what has happened.
- The alleged perpetrator(s) and any witnesses will be spoken to individually and asked to provide their version of events.
- All concerns, actions taken and outcomes will be recorded on CPOMS in accordance with the school's safeguarding and record-keeping procedures.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a Deputy DSL will be informed, where appropriate, and will consider whether the incident meets the threshold for a safeguarding concern.
- Parents/carers of the pupils involved will be informed as appropriate and invited to work in partnership with the school to support a positive resolution.
- Appropriate action, support and interventions will be implemented for both the pupil experiencing bullying and the pupil displaying bullying behaviour.
- A monitoring and review plan will be established to ensure that the bullying has ceased and that all pupils involved continue to feel safe and supported.

Responding to Bullying Behaviour

Where bullying behaviour is identified, the school will take appropriate action in line with the Behaviour Policy. The response will depend on the severity, frequency and impact of the behaviour, but may include:



1. The pupil will be spoken to about their behaviour and given a clear warning that the bullying must stop immediately. Appropriate sanctions and support will be implemented in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.
2. Parents or carers of the pupil displaying bullying behaviour will be informed and involved at an early stage.
3. Additional supervision and monitoring may be put in place during breaktimes, lunchtimes or other times where incidents have occurred.
4. The school may implement specific arrangements to support all pupils involved and reduce opportunities for further incidents. This may include adjusted routines, additional adult support, or supervised movement around the school where appropriate.
5. Persistent or serious incidents of bullying may result in further sanctions, including internal suspension or a fixed-term suspension, in accordance with the Behaviour Policy and statutory guidance.
6. Where bullying behaviour continues despite previous interventions, the school may consider a longer fixed-term suspension and seek additional support from external agencies where appropriate.
7. In the most serious cases, or where there is a continued failure to improve behaviour despite support and intervention, the Headteacher may consider permanent exclusion in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and statutory guidance.

Safeguarding Considerations

Some incidents of bullying may also constitute a safeguarding concern. Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed and appropriate referrals made.

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026, staff should recognise that children can abuse other children (child-on-child abuse), both in and outside school and online. Incidents involving bullying, prejudice-based behaviour, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual violence, harmful sexual behaviour, online abuse, or other forms of child-on-child abuse will be treated as safeguarding matters and responded to in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

Please read in conjunction with the following policies:

Our Lady of Lourdes Safeguarding policy
Behaviour policy
Equality policy statement
Trust's home school agreement