

St Bede's Catholic High School

Antibullying Policy



September 2023

PUPILS should TELL

- Tell someone if they are being bullied or see someone else being bullied
- Earn respect by showing respect towards others
- Learn to work together and support each other
- Lead a happy, safe and secure school life

NEVER - Ignore it! **ALWAYS** - Refuse to join in!

DO NOT hit back with similar behaviour.

DO NOT keep quiet about it!

STAFF should HELP

- They will listen carefully to both sides of the story
- Evaluate the situation and investigate thoroughly
- Look out for the signs of bullying
- Provide support

PARENTS and CARERS should CHECK

- Check things are ok
- Help support the school's anti-bullying policy
- Co-operate and work in partnership with the school
- Empathise with their children
- Keep a look out for the signs of bullying and report incidents

Our advice to parents:

If you are worried about anything at all please phone us at school on 01695 570335

The office staff will help you to make contact with the right person.

Email admin@sbchs.co.uk with your concerns, this email is monitored during the hours of 8.30-3.30pm

Please also report any incidents on school buses by phone or e-mail us at admin@sbchs.co.uk or write to us so we can deal quickly and discreetly with the incident. We can deal with concerns far more effectively if you **do not** write to us anonymously. We will, however, always protect your anonymity in these circumstances. Communication from parents has helped us to improve behaviour on the buses - but we need to be ever-vigilant.

We want our school to be a safe and happy place

We want our school community to be a good place for each of us to be a part of.

We will do everything we can to protect and care for everybody who studies or works at St Bede's.

What is bullying?

We define bullying as behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Forms of bullying include:

Name-calling, taunting, racist remarks, making offensive comments, hitting, kicking, taking belongings, inappropriate text messaging and emailing, sending offensive or degrading images by phone or via the internet, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, excluding people from groups, spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours. Where bullying takes place out of school but affects people within school, the school has a right to investigate this matter.

In our school

The school recognises that bullying is a reality in society but strives, by example and support, to eradicate it in all forms within our school and to develop in our pupils an appreciation of the value of working to extend this to their wider community. Pupils are encouraged to value each person as a unique creation of God. This philosophy will be reinforced through our daily practices and our school assemblies. By encouraging our pupils to respect, understand and appreciate human diversity we hope to nurture those profoundly important values which lie at the heart of a tolerant and civilised society. All pupils will also undertake work which focuses on bullying issues and it will be made clear that actions and language that are aggressive, offensive, sexist, racist or based on any differences (prejudice-based), are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Our school response

We try to tackle bullying whenever it surfaces so that our children can feel safe.

Our staff are around and about on corridors, stairwells and in the playground acting promptly and firmly whenever problems arise. As a result most of our pupils thankfully experience little, if any, bullying.

Many of our older pupils have been trained as prefects and "mentors" and help to keep a protective eye on the younger pupils to whom they have individually been assigned. We want our pupils to feel secure in a community which encourages them to speak up against bullying and where they know they'll be properly protected afterwards.

If children keep quiet when they're being picked on, bullies keep getting away with it. Bullies and their mates are always quick to accuse a child who reports a problem as "grassing" on them. We **must** encourage our children to be **assertive**. The good news is that many more of them are now standing up for themselves. They realise that telling us rather than keeping quiet or hitting back with violence or hurtful language is the best way to deal with bullying. Sometimes it might be easier for a child if they can get a friend to tell a teacher about what has been happening. We know that parents will always support and reinforce this message at home as well: **Never hit back. Telling a teacher will protect you.**

Our aim as a Catholic school is for pupils to experience justice and reconciliation. We want those who have had a rough time to feel supported and protected. We want those who have been unkind and hurtful to face up to what they have done, to see why their behaviour is wrong, to accept their punishment and to apologise. Fortunately, the majority of cases we deal with end with genuine expressions of regret, forgiveness and reconciliation.