

Anti-Bullying Policy



“Our school is a place where we all come together as one community to learn, have fun and make lasting friendships all under God’s love and care”

Approved by:	School Leadership Team Governors	Date: September 2024
Last reviewed on:	September 2024	
Next review due by:	September 2026	

Contents

1. Policy aims.....	2
2. Legislation and guidance.....	2
3. Roles and responsibilities.....	2
4. Organisation and Procedures.....	4
5. Monitoring arrangements.....	8
6. Links with other policies.....	8
7. Useful links and supporting organisations.....	9

1. Policy aims

We are aiming in this policy to provide:

- A clear definition of what constitutes bullying that will be understood by children, staff, parents and governors.
- Strategies for the prevention of bullying
- Strategies for dealing with bullies and the bullied
- The recognition that bullying is a problem, which we need to deal with consistently.

This policy has been adopted with the involvement of the whole school community. We are committed to developing an anti-bullying culture where the bullying of adults, children or young people is not tolerated in any form.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on DfE guidance “Preventing and Tackling Bullying” July 2017 and supporting documents. It also considers the DfE statutory guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2022

There are several pieces of legislation which set out measures and actions for schools in response to bullying, as well as criminal and civil law. These may include (but are not limited to):

- The Education and Inspection Act 2006, 2011
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- The Malicious Communications Act 1988

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

Governors to take a lead role in monitoring and reviewing this policy.

3.2 Headteacher

The headteacher to communicate this policy to the school community, to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly, consistently and reasonably, and that a member of the senior leadership team has been identified to take overall responsibility.

3.3 Other staff

All staff, including governors, senior leadership, teaching and non-teaching staff, to support, uphold and implement this policy accordingly.

3.4 Parents

Parents/carers to support their children and work in partnership with the school.

3.5 Pupils

Pupils to abide by the policy.

4. Organisation and Procedures

4.1 Definition of Bullying

Bullying can be defined as 'behaviour by an individual or a group, repeated over time that intentionally hurts another individual either physically or emotionally'. DfE 'Preventing and Tackling Bullying

- Bullying can include physical and emotional abuse such as name calling, taunting, mocking, making offensive comments, kicking, hitting, taking belongings, producing offensive graffiti, gossiping, peer isolation (e.g. excluding people from groups) and spreading hurtful and untruthful rumours.
- The same unacceptable behaviours can be expressed online; this is sometimes called online bullying or cyberbullying. Specifically this can include sending offensive, upsetting and inappropriate messages by phone, text, instant messenger, through gaming, websites, social media sites and apps, and sending offensive or degrading photos or videos.
- St Lawrence Catholic Primary School recognise that bullying can be emotionally abusive and can cause severe and adverse effects on children's emotional development.
- Bullying is recognised by St Lawrence Catholic Primary School as being a form of peer on peer abuse; children can abuse other children. Abuse is abuse and it should never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".

We recognise that even if there are no reports of bullying, it does not mean it is not happening and it may be the case that it is just not being reported. All victims will be taken seriously and offered appropriate support, regardless of where the abuse takes place.

4.2 Forms and Types of Bullying Covered by this Policy

Bullying can happen to anyone. This policy covers all types and forms of bullying including but not limited to:

- Bullying related to physical appearance
- Bullying of young carers, children in care or otherwise related to home circumstances
- Bullying related to physical/mental health conditions
- Physical bullying
- Emotional bullying
- Sexualised bullying/harassment
- Bullying via technology, known as online bullying or cyberbullying
- Prejudiced-based and discriminatory bullying (against people/pupils with protected characteristics) which may include:
 - Bullying related to race, religion, faith and belief and for those without faith

- Bullying related to ethnicity, nationality or culture
- Bullying related to Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND)
- Bullying related to sexual orientation

4.3 School Ethos

St Lawrence Primary School community recognises that all forms of bullying, especially if left unaddressed, can have a devastating effect on individuals; it can create a barrier to learning and have serious consequences for mental wellbeing.

By effectively preventing and tackling bullying our school can help to create a safe and disciplined environment, where pupils are able to learn and fulfil their potential.

Our Community:

- Understands the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers.
- Monitors and reviews our anti-bullying policy and practice on a regular basis.
- Supports staff to promote positive relationships to help prevent bullying.
- Recognises that some members of our community may be more vulnerable to bullying and its impact than others; this may include children with SEND. Being aware of this will help us to develop effective strategies to prevent bullying from happening and provide appropriate support, if required.
- Will intervene by identifying and tackling bullying behaviour appropriately and promptly.
- Ensures our pupils are aware that bullying concerns will be dealt with sensitively and effectively; that everyone should feel safe to learn and abide by the anti-bullying policy.
- Requires all members of the community to work with the school to uphold the anti-bullying policy.
- Recognises the potential impact of bullying on the wider family of those affected so will work in partnership with parents/carers regarding all reported bullying concerns and will seek to keep them informed at all stages.
- Will deal promptly with grievances regarding the school response to bullying in line with our complaints policy.
- Seeks to learn from good anti-bullying practice elsewhere.
- Utilises support from other organisations as appropriate.

4.4 Responding to Bullying Concerns

The following steps will be taken when dealing with any incidents of bullying reported to the school:

- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff who has been approached or witnessed the concern.
- The school will provide appropriate support for the person being bullied – making sure they are not at risk of immediate harm and will involve them in any decision-making, as appropriate.
- The DSL will be informed of all bullying concerns, especially where there may be safeguarding issues.
- The Head teacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another appropriate member of the Senior Leadership team will interview all parties involved.

- A clear and precise account of bullying incidents will be recorded by the school on Integris in accordance with existing procedures. This will include recording appropriate details regarding decisions and action taken.
- The school will speak with and inform other staff members, where appropriate.
- The school will ensure parents/carers are kept informed about the concern and action taken, as appropriate and in line with child protection and confidentiality policies.

4.5 Supporting Pupils

Pupils who have been bullied will be supported by:

- Reassuring the pupil and providing immediate pastoral support., including how to respond to any further concerns.
- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the experience with their teacher, the DSL, or a member of staff of their choice.
- Where necessary, working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance;
- Communication with Parents/Carers to explain actions taken and support provided.

Pupils who have perpetrated bullying will be supported by:

- Discussing what happened, establishing the concern and the need to change. Providing appropriate education and support regarding their behaviour or actions.
- Informing parents/carers to help change the attitude and behaviour of the child.
- If online, requesting that content be removed and reporting accounts/content to service provider.
- Sanctioning, in line with school behaviour/discipline policy.

4.6 Supporting Adults

Our school takes measures to prevent and tackle bullying among pupils; however, it is equally important to recognise that bullying of adults, including staff and parents, whether by pupils, parents or other staff members, is unacceptable.

Adults who have been bullied or affected will be supported by:

- Offering an immediate opportunity to discuss the concern with the designated safeguarding lead, a senior member of staff and/or the Head teacher.
- Advising them to keep a record of the bullying as evidence and discuss how to respond to future concerns.
- Where the bullying takes place off school site or outside of normal school hours (including online), the school will still investigate the concern and ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the schools' policies

- Reporting offensive or upsetting content and/or accounts to the service provider, where the bullying has occurred online.
- Reassuring and offering appropriate support.
- Working with the wider community and local/national organisations to provide further or specialist advice and guidance.

4.7 Preventing Bullying

Environment

The whole school community will-

- Create and support an inclusive environment which promotes a culture of mutual respect, consideration and care for others, which will be upheld by all.
- Recognise that bullying can be perpetrated or experienced by any member of the community, including adults and children (peer on peer abuse).
- Recognise the potential for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to be disproportionately impacted by bullying and will implement additional pastoral support as required.
- Recognise that bullying may be affected and influenced by gender, age, ability and culture of those involved.
- Challenge practice and language (including 'banter') which does not uphold the school values of tolerance, non-discrimination and respect towards others.
- Be encouraged to use technology, especially mobile phones and social media, positively and responsibly.
- Celebrate success and achievements to promote and build a positive school ethos.

Policy and Support

The whole school community will:

- Provide effective means for pupils, staff and parents/carers to access support and report concerns.
- Regularly update and evaluate our practice to consider the developments of technology provide up-to-date advice and education to all members of the community regarding positive online behaviour.
- Take appropriate, proportionate and reasonable action, in line with existing school policies, for any bullying brought to the schools' attention, which involves or affects pupils.
- Implement appropriate disciplinary sanctions; the consequences of bullying will reflect the seriousness of the incident, so that others see that bullying is unacceptable.

Education and Training

The school community will:

- Train all staff, including teaching staff, support staff (e.g. administration staff, lunchtime support staff and site support staff) and pastoral staff, to identify all forms of bullying and take appropriate action, following the school's policy and procedures, including recording and reporting incidents.
- Consider a range of opportunities and approaches for addressing bullying throughout the curriculum and other activities, such as: through displays, assemblies, peer support, the school/student council, etc.
- Collaborate with other local educational settings as appropriate, and during key times of the year, for example during transition.
- Ensure anti-bullying has a high profile throughout the year, reinforced through key opportunities such as anti-bullying week
- Provide systematic opportunities to develop pupils' social and emotional skills, including building self-esteem.

4.8 Involvement of Pupils

We will:

- Involve pupils to ensure that they understand the school's approach and are clear about the part they play in preventing bullying.
- Regularly canvas pupils' views on the extent and nature of bullying.
- Ensure that all pupils know how to express worries and anxieties about bullying.
- Involve pupils in anti-bullying campaigns in schools and embedded messages in the wider school curriculum.
- Utilise pupil voice in providing pupil led education and support
- Publicise the details of internal support, as well as external helplines and websites.
- Offer support to pupils who have been bullied and to those who are bullying to address the problems they have.

4.9 Involvement of Parents/Carers

We will:

- Make sure that key information about bullying (including policies and named points of contact) is available to parents/carers via the school website.
- Work with all parents/carers and the local community to address issues beyond the school gates that give rise to bullying.
- Ensure that parents work with the school to role model positive behaviour for pupils, both on and offline.

5. Monitoring arrangements

The school will ensure that they regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied.

- Any incidences will be recorded on Integris so they are monitored by SLT and all staff over time and repetition identified and acted upon
- Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.
- The headteacher will be informed of bullying concerns, as appropriate.
- The headteacher will meet with the link governor on a regular basis to discuss incidents of bullying, including outcomes as appropriate.

6. Links with other policies

This policy links with several school policies and procedures:

- Behaviour Policy
- PHSE policy and Life to the Full Scheme
- Computing and Internet Acceptable Use Policies
- Guidance for dealing with threatening and abusive behaviour
- Equality Objectives
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Complaints Policy

7. Useful Links and Supporting Organisations

- Anti- Bullying Alliance: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk
- Childline: www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- The Diana Award: www.diana-award.org.uk
- Childnet: www.childnet.com
- DFE Cyberbullying: advice for headteachers ,school staff , parents and carers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying
- Anti-BullyingAlliance for young people with SEN and disabilities: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/at-risk-groups/sen-disability