

# St Mary Magdalen's Primary School



*The family of St Mary Magdalen's is  
Centred on Christ to create  
Inquisitive individuals  
Who feel empowered to  
Engage in the world in which they live*



## Anti-Bullying POLICY

Date of Implementation: Autumn 2024  
Date of Review: Autumn 2026

At St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School we do not tolerate bullying in any form and all members of the school community are committed to working together to ensure a safe, caring environment in which all of our children will feel secure to learn and grow.

### **Rationale:**

Our mission statement and ethos underpin the life, work and relationships of our school. When incidents of bullying behaviour are brought to our attention, we take action to prevent or reduce the possibility of it happening again. We support the child being bullied so that they may feel safe and happy at school and challenge the child who has shown bullying behaviour with the aim of changing his/her behaviour. Persistent bullying behaviour is referred to in the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

### **What is bullying?**

There are many definitions of bullying, but it is generally accepted that it is ***deliberately hurtful behaviour which is repeated over a period of time***. Although it takes many forms the main types of bullying are:

- Physical – e.g. hitting, kicking, taking or interfering with someone else's belongings
- Verbal – e.g. name-calling, belittling someone's efforts, insulting
- Indirect – e.g. spreading nasty stories or rumours, excluding someone, sending malicious e-mails or text messages (cyber bullying)
- Racial, gender based or about a person's sexual orientation

If a child is being bullied:

- They may feel frightened, angry, powerless, embarrassed
- Their work, sleep and ability to concentrate may suffer
- They may feel worried and not know what to do
- They should TELL an adult who can help or someone they can trust to tell on their behalf

### **What do we do to prevent bullying at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School?**

Our school is proactive in taking preventative measures to reduce incidents of bullying behaviour by:

- Creating an open environment in which incidents of bullying are reported to staff.
- Informing all members of the school community about the school's policy.
- Ensuring that there is a clear and consistent approach to dealing with bullying behaviour.
- Ensuring that parents of children who are being bullied and children who are carrying out bullying behaviour are informed immediately.
- Children involved in Bullying to be discussed at safeguarding meeting which increases surveillance by appropriate adults in school.
- Actively patrolling communal areas during supervision duty at breaks and lunchtimes by teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Looking for signs which may indicate bullying behaviour and reporting them to appropriate members of staff who will follow designated procedures.
- Ensuring adults provide a positive role model in words and actions at all times.
- Promoting the use of Buddies, Pupil Leaders and the Wellbeing Leads, through wellbeing time.

- Liaising with other agencies e.g. Anti-Bullying Service / NSPCC.
- Promoting good self-esteem through our school reward systems.
- Ensuring that children have instant access to adults who can listen to them e.g. teaching and non-teaching staff and lunchtime staff.
- Holding an annual Anti-Bullying Week.

#### **What happens when a bullying incident is reported?**

- We will listen sympathetically to the child or parent / carer making the complaint and take his / her concerns seriously.
- We will ensure the immediate safety of the child.
- We will investigate the incident, informing the child making the complaint and their parent / carer of the action being taken and the timescale involved.
- Whilst an incident is being investigated, we will respect confidentiality and encourage the parent / carer to do the same.
- If an incident of bullying has occurred, we will take action to ensure that it does not occur again. This will include discussion with the alleged bully to ensure that s/he knows the reason for the complaint. An apology by the alleged bully to the victim would be appropriate.
- The Headteacher will record incidents and actions taken and inform the parent/carer of the children involved.
- The Headteacher will monitor the situation and evaluate actions taken.
- Each case will be treated individually and circumstances considered before deciding on the appropriate action to be taken.

#### **What can children do to stop bullying?**

- Be clear what bullying is and be able to recognise it.
- Refuse to be involved in any bullying situation either as a bully, a victim or a bystander.
- Look after each other, if present when bullying is taking place telling someone immediately who can help

#### **What can parents/ carers do to stop bullying?**

- Watch for signs of distress in their child e.g. unwillingness to attend school, pattern of head /stomach aches, missing belongings, damaged clothing, bruising.
- Talk to their child about bullying behaviour to ensure that his / her behaviour makes the school a happy place for other children.
- Take an active interest in child's social life and friends.
- Be prepared to work in partnership with the school.
- Encourage their child to tell a member of staff about any incident.
- Inform the school if bullying is suspected (not just own child involved) – keep a written record (who, what, when, where, why, how).