

# **ARCHBISHOP BECK CATHOLIC SPORTS COLLEGE**

## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

### **Legal Requirements**

Under Section 22 of the Education Act 2006 (No 2), Headteachers are responsible for maintaining acceptable standards of discipline and regulating the conduct of pupils. Section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1988 requires schools to offer pupils a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

### **Statement of Intent**

We at Archbishop Beck are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. In accordance with our mission statement we want to develop an ethos that promotes high standards of behaviour based on mutual respect. The ethos of the school is founded in our Christian values and its belief in respect for the individual and concern for one another. Each member of staff shares the responsibility for fostering these values. Therefore, we have a zero tolerance to bullying in our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should feel able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

### **Objectives of this Policy**

- To prevent bullying and to know that bullying is not tolerated by raising awareness through education.
- Everyone, including governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents/carers should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- To inform everyone about the schools anti bullying policy and to follow procedures when bullying arises or is reported.
- Pupils and parents/carers should be assured that they will be listened to and supported when bullying is reported. Including help for both the victim and the bully.

## What Is Bullying?

Bullying can be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, that is repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional  
being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding books, threatening gestures)
- Physical  
pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence. Interfering with possessions, 'borrowing'
- Racist  
racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual  
unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic  
because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal  
name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, skittingng, intentionally embarrassing others.
- Technological  
Cyberbullying covers all areas of internet, email & social networking sites e.g. facebook and chat room misuse. Mobile telephone misuse, threats by text messaging & prank calls, taking photo's, happy slapping etc. Misuse of any other associated technology, i.e. camera, video and voice recording facilities.

Remember that bullying can occur not only between pupils and also between staff. It can be staff to pupil or by pupil to staff. It also includes individuals who bully pupils or staff as they arrive to and leave school. 3

## Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. All adults within the school community should be aware of these possible signs and that they should always investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- doesn't want to go on the school / public bus
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- begins to truant
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- attempts or threatens suicide or runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- stops progressing academically
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions which are damaged or " go missing"
- asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- has dinner or other monies continually "lost"
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- comes home starving (money / lunch has been stolen)
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- is afraid to use the internet or mobile phone
- is nervous & jumpy when a cyber message is received

Remember that these signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility. 4

## Procedures

- Report bullying incident to staff, if the incident is not serious the member of staff involved will talk to the pupils at the time. A written note or comment on SIM's to the relevant key stage learning mentor, form tutor and progress manager logs the incident. Parents/carers will be notified if appropriate.
- If it is serious and there is evidence of other recorded incidents, both the victim and bully will be interviewed separately either by the learning mentor or progress manager. Any relevant information should be passed on to the Child Protection Officer.
- If agreed a follow up mediation session will take place, which results in a contract between both parties being drawn up. A letter will be sent home detailing all of the above and will explain what will happen next.
- The situation will be closely monitored as feedback will be given to all members of staff. If bullying continues then parents/ carers will be asked to come in to discuss the issues and to develop strategies.
- The learning mentor will attempt to help and counsel both the bully and the victim to change their behaviour's during this time.
- If the bullying continues the parents/carers will be asked to attend a meeting with the Deputy Head/Headteacher and if appropriate the police will be consulted. Also external agencies may get involved.
- If incidents still continue exclusion procedures may begin. (All circumstances will be considered fully).

Remember that the school's Rewards and Sanctions Policy will also be in place to address pupils' poor behaviours. 5

## Prevention

We are a telling school that has a zero tolerance to bullying and we do this by having a whole school approach:

- Our Mission Statement is based on Respect and there are posters displayed around school and in every class room. Our anti-bullying policy is in the pupils planners and a procedure flow chart is in every classroom.
- Weekly year assemblies on behaviour.
- Our local community police officer, PC Phil Seddon, conducts assemblies about the SHARP reporting system, the law and consequences of inappropriate behaviour in and out of school. He also holds a weekly drop-in for pupils and staff to attend and report things confidentially.
- In the classroom, during form tutor and lesson time, through project work and PHSE days.
- Supervision during breakfast club, break and snack break times also there are members of staff around when pupils arrive and leave school.
- Pupil voice where all pupils have a chance to discuss issues that concern them during Year and School Council meetings.
- Pupils have taken part in the 'Liverpool Children's Service Anti-Bullying Strategy' by filling out on line questionnaires.
- Transition buddies and peer mentors are available for pupils who require their support.
- We work closely with parents to ensure that all concerns are taken seriously and are investigated thoroughly.
- Inviting external agencies to come into school and do workshop's on all aspects of bullying, for example, Bullybusters.
- Take an active part in the Anti-Bullying Alliance week held every November.

For more help and advice please contact

Bullybusters on 0800 169 6928 [www.bullybusters.org.uk](http://www.bullybusters.org.uk)

Childline 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

NSPCC 0808 800 5000, [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Kidscape 0207 730 3300, [www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

Anti-Bullying Alliance 020 784 31901 [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org).

Parentline Plus on 0808 800 2222

**Ratified by Governors, February, 2010**