



## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

### **The Catholic Ethos of the School**

At St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School we aim to provide the highest quality education and care for all our children. We aim to offer a welcome to each child and family and to provide a warm, caring and safe environment within which all children can learn and develop.

Our school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Westminster and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is thus the responsibility of all members of the school, pupils, parents and teachers, to take swift and appropriate action when relationships in our community conspicuously fail to reflect these ideals. The following policy is commended as a series of concrete courses of action to assist in this endeavour.

### **Aims**

1. To make it clear to all that bullying is never acceptable.
2. To encourage an environment where independence is celebrated and individuals can flourish without fear.
3. To protect the right of all pupils and staff to be happy and safe in school.

### **Definition**

Bullying is repeated behaviour that makes other people feel physically or emotionally threatened or uncomfortable. The three main types of bullying are:

PHYSICAL eg: hitting, kicking, stealing or hiding belongings or money etc

VERBAL eg: name-calling, teasing, insulting, writing unkind notes etc

EMOTIONAL eg: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, spreading rumours, looks etc

### **Some of the signs a victim may exhibit.**

1. Marked changes in behaviour (becoming shy or nervous)
2. Feigning illness
3. Clinging to adults
4. Changes in work patterns
5. Lack of concentration
6. Truancy

### **Encouragement to tell**

The atmosphere in school and at home must be such that pupils who are being bullied, or others who know about it, feel they will be listened to seriously, and that swift, effective action, sensitive to their concerns, will be taken. Not telling protects the bully or bullies, and gives the impression that they may continue, perhaps bullying others, too.

### **Specific Policy Action (PARENTS)**

If you think that your child is being bullied, or if they tell you that they are being bullied, please let their teacher know straight away. Please reassure your child that we will deal with the matter firmly but sensitively.

If your child tells us they are being bullied, or if we discover that they are bullying others, we will contact you and discuss together how the situation can be improved.

### **Specific Policy Action (TEACHERS and SUPPORT STAFF)**

If you think that bullying is happening, please report the matter immediately to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher in her absence. We need to be particularly vigilant at break times, moving around the school and in the playground and lavatories.

### **Specific Policy Action**

1. To record clearly and factually the nature of the problems and the steps taken to deal with it in the register located in the Head teacher's office.
2. To make it clear to the victim that revenge is not appropriate, and to the bully that his/her behaviour is unacceptable and has caused distress.
3. To seek to resolve the problem, if possible, through counselling of both parties and to observe developments most carefully. In some cases sanctions will have to be applied in the first instance.
4. To inform, in writing, the parents of both parties of what has happened and how it has been dealt with.
5. Where counselling has not been effective, to call the parents of both parties for interview, and to tell them of the sanctions to be applied.
6. To make it clear to pupils that our school will not hesitate to impose temporary or even permanent exclusion where bullying behaviour has not responded to the measures outlined above.

### **Specific Policy Action (PUPILS)**

If you are being bullied, or know that someone else is being bullied, you **must** tell an adult straightaway and it will be dealt with. Not telling means that you, or any other victim, will continue to suffer, and the bully or bullies will carry on, probably with others, too. We are all responsible for making sure that everyone is safe and happy in School.

**Policy Approved: October 2010**

**Next Review: October 2012**

## PROCEDURES IN SCHOOL FOR REPORTING BULLYING



### **Support Agencies**

Anti-bullying Alliance - **the alliance brings together over 60 organisations into one network with the aim of reducing bullying. Their website has a parent section with links to recommended organisations who can help with bullying issues**

[www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

Kidscape

[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

02077303300

*Childline – advice and stories from children who have survived bullying*

08000 1111

***Bullying on line***

[www.bullying.co.uk](http://www.bullying.co.uk)

***Parentline Plus – advice and links for parents*** [www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

08088002222

***Parents Against Bullying***

01928 576152

### ***Useful sources of information***

**Cyberbullying.org** - one of the first websites set up in this area, for young people, providing advice around preventing and taking action against cyber bullying. A Canadian based site [www.cyberbullying.org](http://www.cyberbullying.org)

**Chat danger** - a website that informs about the potential dangers online (including bullying), and advice on how to stay safe while chatting [www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com)

**Think U Know** - the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), has produced a set of resources around internet safety for secondary schools [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

**Know IT All for Parents** – a range of resources for primary and secondary schools by Childnet International. Has a sample family agreement [www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents](http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents)



**BULLYING INCIDENT SHEET**

Name(s) of Pupil(s) involved:

Time and Date of incident:

Place where incident occurred:

Names of staff or other authorised adults involved:

Names of witnesses:

Staff:

Pupils:

Description of the way in which the incident developed (continue over sheet if necessary)

Pupil's Response:

Outcome of incident:

Parents notified:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_