



St Mark's

CE Primary

School

# **Anti-Bullying Policy**

(Parent Copy)

Policy Statement and Guidelines

Policy Date: Autumn 2018

Review Date: Autumn 2019



The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children's rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships: between teachers / adults and pupils, between adults and between pupils and as a Rights Respecting School we work and learn together as a respectful community.

### **Anti – Bullying Policy**

**Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school and will not be tolerated. We have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. We are committed to providing a safe, friendly environment in which our children can learn. If bullying does occur, all pupils should feel able to tell somebody.**

### **What is bullying?**

Bullying is the persistent or repetitive behaviour which is intended to cause hurt and distress to another person. Bullying comes in many forms and could be:

Emotional – Being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, and threatening gestures.

Physical – Kicking, hitting, pushing, punching or any use of violence.

Racism – Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.

Sexual – Unwelcomed behaviour of a sexual nature which may include indecent suggestive remarks, inappropriate touching, requests or demands, indecent gestures drawings or 'jokes' and the circulation of obscene material.

Verbal – Name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours and teasing.

Homophobic – because of, or focussing on the issue of sexuality

Cyber – All areas of internet usage, such as email, internet chat rooms misuse. Threats via mobile phones including camera and video. Tips to remember around internet usage are: Always respect others, think before you send, treat your password as a secret, block any body you suspect of bullying, do not be tempted to retaliate, save the evidence, make sure you tell someone

**A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he/she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of possible signs e.g**

- Is afraid to walk to and from school
- Doesn't want to go to school
- Changes to usual routines/ eating patterns
- Becomes anxious or withdrawn
- Cries themselves to sleep
- Deterioration in quality of school work
- Has possessions which are damaged or missing
- Signs of self – harm
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Asks for money

These could all be an indication of other problems but bullying should be considered a possibility and investigated

**Should you be concerned about your child and issues around bullying the following procedure should be followed**

1. Incidents of bullying should be reported to a member of staff as soon as possible & will be investigated further that day ( providing it is reported whilst children are in school If not this will be the following school day )
2. A record will be kept of reported incidents and parents will be notified that day.
3. The bullying behaviour or threats will be investigated thoroughly.
4. The children involved will be helped to change their behaviour
5. In serious cases parents will be asked to attend a meeting once the incident has been investigated in order for us to work together to ensure all of the children involved feel supported.
6. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with , each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place

In order for school & parents to address incidents of bullying it is essential that we work together respectfully and sensitively. Our aim is that all of our children feel happy and safe.

**Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns about your child - Telephone No : 02380 772968**

**Alternatively for help & advice:**

**Childline Tel: 0800 1111 /www.childline.org.uk**

**Kidscape Tel: 020 77303300**