



## Policy Statement

St George's School regards bullying as a most unpleasant aspect of life in any society and undertakes to prevent it in the School community. This aim is clearly declared to staff, pupils and parents in accordance with the DCSF guidance *Safe To Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools*.

## Aims and Objectives

- to demonstrate that the school takes bullying seriously and it will not be tolerated
- to take measures to prevent all forms of bullying in the school and on off-site activities including cyber-bullying
- to support everyone in their attempts to identify the bully and protect those who might be bullied
- to demonstrate to all that the safety and happiness of pupils is enhanced by dealing positively with bullying
- to promote an environment where it is not an offence to tell someone about bullying
- raise awareness of staff through training

## Definition of Bullying, and its effect

Bullying, including racial, religious, cultural, sexual/sexist, homophobic, special educational needs and disability bullying and cyber-bullying (social websites, mobile phones, text messages, photographs and emails) is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. It can take a number of forms: physical or verbal, obvious or subtle and can take place over an extended period of time

Bullying means **consistent** problems with:

- Any physical violence, e.g. kicking or punching.
- Name calling, spreading rumours, hurtful teasing.
- Excluding anyone from any activity or group work.
- Ignoring or not talking to someone.
- Laughing at someone.
- Taking or damaging someone's property.
- Cyber-bullying, for example: sending unpleasant e-mails and/or text messages, and inappropriate use of social networking sites, gaming, web-cams, etc.
- Attacks or abuse because of religion, gender, sexuality, disability, appearance, ethnic or racial origin.

Children who are bullied may:

- Be unwilling to go to school.
- Begin to do poorly in school work.
- Become withdrawn and distressed.
- Have nightmares or cry themselves to sleep.
- Lose their possessions mysteriously.
- Refuse to say what is wrong.
- Give excuses to explain any of these things.
- Show aggressive behaviour.
- Lose their appetite.

Bullying can cause its victim anything from short term unhappiness and anxiety to psychological damage. In extreme cases bullying has been linked directly to suicide. Whilst bullying is not in itself a criminal offence, there are criminal laws which relate to harassment and threatening behaviour.

### **WHY DO WE HAVE AN ANTI-BULLYING POLICY?**

National studies show that bullying occurs more than everyone might think. The aim of the Anti-Bullying Policy is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Bullying affects everyone, not just the bullies and their victims. It also affects those children who watch, and who can get drawn in by group pressure. If children are part of a group that makes anybody feel ashamed, unhappy or afraid, they are involved in bullying.

### **Bullying is not tolerated at St George's**

To counteract bullying behaviours, we promote a safe environment in which the children are encouraged to discuss their feelings openly, without fear of judgment. We endeavour to give the children the skills to identify and deal with their worries. Through PSHE, Drama, literature, assemblies and tutor/tutee meetings, we educate the children about their rights and responsibilities as members of the school community.

Our Anti-Bullying Leaflet is issued to all pupils annually.

Please see the [Behaviour Policy](#) for how we deal with bullying (both for the bully and the victim) and other misdemeanours.

Please see the [PSHCE Policy](#) to see how we aim to prevent bullying in the first place.

### **How parents may help**

If your child tells you about bullying, talk with them about ways in which together you can tell the school how they are feeling and what has happened. At school we do not tolerate bullying. We will listen to them and do everything we can to remedy the situation.

Boarders will be told how important it is to tell a member of staff (Boarding or otherwise) if they are experiencing any problems at all.

The first and most important step is to listen. Allow them to tell their story in their own words. Don't respond by dismissing their experience as part of 'growing up'.

If your child refuses to talk to you, suggest that they talk to another adult, they feel comfortable with. Before they speak to their parents or teachers about being bullied, some children may phone Childline.

If you suspect your child is being bullied or is feeling unhappy about something, please contact the Form Teacher/Tutor, Miss Griffin or Father Zihni, and do encourage your child to do likewise. It is important to 'tell' and talk about the problem.

## **WHAT THE SCHOOL WILL DO**

The teacher who receives the information will investigate the incidents. The victim, the bully and any witnesses will be interviewed to find out what has happened. Information will go to the Form Teacher/Tutor, or Miss Griffin.

A written record of the incident will be kept and further action will be taken as appropriate. Parents will be involved and asked to attend a meeting to discuss the problem.

At school we believe that prevention is better than intervention. We will use appropriate methods for helping children to prevent bullying. At the beginning of each term, the children discuss, 'what is a worry?' and they are reminded of the purpose of the Pastoral Office. In addition all children are issued with a leaflet that gives them advice on all aspects of bullying. We are committed to teaching various strategies for developing positive relationships and respect for others through personal, social and health education across the curriculum.

We all need to be active and work together to make school life happy and secure for everyone. The aim of the policy is to help us towards this goal.

All incidents of bullying will be logged and the outcomes will be recorded on the Pupil's Profile.

For further information on bullying, please ask to see our policy on 'Major Pastoral Concerns'.

If you have any questions, concerns or queries about the Anti-Bullying Policy or bullying in general, please contact us here at St. George'

<b>Mr A Salmond Smith</b>	- Head Master
<b>Miss P Griffin</b>	- Deputy Head and member of Pastoral Committee
<b>Father A Zihni</b>	- Member of Pastoral Committee and School Chaplain

Please see the School's Behaviour Policy for details of how the bully and the victim will be supported and the sanctions that will be used.

January 2012 – PG  
Next review date January 2013