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**Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School**

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Wednesday 24th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave both children and parents feeling worried so we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you what we do at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School to raise awareness and enable children and parents to deal with bullying issues.

### **What is bullying?**

At Sacred Heart, we have agreed together what our definition of bullying is:

- Bullying is intentional, not an accident, where a bully hurts someone on purpose
- Bullying is repetitive. This means that the bully hurts someone over and over again; it isn't an incident that happens only once
- In general, bullying is where one person acts like they have more power than another, and does whatever they can to hurt that person
- It is not bullying when two children of similar age, power and strength have an occasional quarrel

### **What does Sacred Heart do to prevent bullying?**

- School has an Anti-Bullying Policy (available on the school website) which states that any forms of bullying will not be tolerated and how incidents of bullying will be dealt with appropriately (Any incidents of bullying are logged and reported to governors)
- School has an Anti-Bullying Leaflet for Pupils, which is shared with children each year (copy attached to this email)
- School have an advice booklet for parents (copy attached to this email)
- School has a Behaviour Policy (available on the school website) which indicates how school will promote positive behaviour within school consistently across all classes, by all members of staff
- Prevention is better than a cure. Our PSHE curriculum focuses on anti-bullying, friendships, conflict, working as a group, celebrating differences and how we deal with feelings and emotions

In addition to this, all children take part in Anti-Bullying Week, which takes place in November, when children have more focussed lessons and activities on understanding friendships and relationships, where they learn:

- what a good friendship is, and what is not
- what bullying is
- different types of bullying
- understand why bullying may happen
- the effects of bullying
- understand how to stop bullying
- who they can talk to if they think they are, or their friend is, being bullied.

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Care, Courtesy & Commitment



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

#EVERYDAYCOUNTS

 **WIRRAL**



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During Anti-Bullying week, we have an annual whole school Anti-Bullying performance by Altru Drama, whose performance provides a strong message of Anti-Bullying to deepen the children's understanding. These are followed up with workshops for an appropriate year group while other year groups are provided with lesson plans and activities.

### **What can parents do?**

If your child tells you they are being bullied:

- Stay calm, don't panic
- Listen to your child and reassure them they have done the right thing in talking to you
- Don't ask leading questions such as "Was she bullying you?". Encourage the conversation with questions such as "What happened?".
- Work in partnership with the school to deal with the issue appropriately

Cyberbullying can occasionally be an issue outside of the school day. This is bullying that takes place using technology: on social media sites, through a mobile phone, or on gaming sites. There are ways to help prevent a child from being cyberbullied and to help them cope and stop the bullying if it does happen. Our school computing curriculum enables pupils to learn about this at an age appropriate level.

We would like to reassure parents that, whilst very occasionally issues may arise, bullying is not a major concern within our school. Our recent Ofsted Report (January 2023) stated, "**Children understand the different forms of bullying. Pupils know that leaders will act on any concerns that arise.**" On the few occasions that bullying is reported, leaders tackle it effectively. With school and parents working together, matters are dealt with quickly and effectively with a positive result.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or Miss Price, our PSHE lead.

Kind regards,

Mrs Grealis  
Deputy Headteacher

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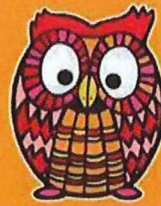




Care, Courtesy  
& Commitment

An information booklet for parents

**be a  
buddy**



**not a  
bully**



## What is bullying?

Throughout school children will learn that bullying is:

- repeated behaviour that happens regularly;
- deliberate. The bully wants to hurt, humiliate or harm the other child;
- an imbalance of power. It involves someone (or a group of people) who are stronger in some way than the person who is being bullied. They may be older, stronger, there may be more of them or they may have a 'hold' over the person (e.g. they know a secret about them).

Children will learn that bullying is not:

- a one-off fight or argument;
- when a friend is sometimes thoughtless.

We teach our pupils about four different types of bullying:

1. Verbal e.g. hurtful comments and threats, name-calling (this includes Hate Crime - racist and homophobic, biphobic or transphobic comments);
2. Physical e.g. hitting, kicking, taking belongings;
3. Emotional e.g. staring, glaring, leaving people out, spreading rumours;
4. Cyber e.g. using technology to hurt someone through a variety of media – e.g. text messages, comments on social networks.



## Why do children bully?

Children bully because:

- they don't realise how much it hurts;
- they dislike or are jealous of someone;
- it makes them feel powerful or respected;
- it gets them what they want (sweets, money);
- they are bullied themselves and are taking out their hurt and anger on someone who won't fight back;
- they are having problems in their life that are making them feel bad.

## **REMEMBER:**

People who are happy with themselves do not need to bully other people!

### **What does school do about bullying?**

At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, we join in with Anti-Bullying week each year:

We continue, through the year to promote Anti-Bullying in school through carefully thought out lessons and discussions within circle time, including issues such as Cyber-Bullying and what it means to be a good friend. We have Anti-Bullying display boards around the school to keep reminding children that bullying is not tolerated in Sacred Heart.

At school we have an Anti-Bullying policy which explains what to do if bullying is reported and what the school is doing to stop bullying happening in the first place.

This work helps us to stop bullying happening by:

- Making sure that all children and adults mean the same thing when they talk about bullying;
- Helping children to understand how bullying feels for the person being bullied;
- Making sure that all children feel confident about telling an adult when they know that bullying is going on;
- Making sure that all children know exactly what to do if they are being bullied, and feel confident that something will be done to stop it;
- Helping children enjoy, celebrate and respect the ways we are all different, as well as the ways in which we are similar, and to feel good about themselves.

### **How can I help at home?**

The most important things that you can do to help your child to understand, help prevent, and deal with bullying are to:

- Know what your child will be learning about bullying at school (by reading this booklet or looking at the school's website);
- Encourage and support them to try out the skills they are learning in school;
- Be a good role model in the way you talk about others – so your child will learn that everybody deserves respect;
- Model empathy for others – talk about how other people might feel in different situations;
- Talk openly about what bullying is and how it feels;
- Make it safe for your child to share their worries about bullying with you, so they know they can rely on you to listen to them and support them;
- Talk to your child about the different types of bullying;
- Teach them how to use social media safely, and be a positive role model.
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**Don't worry that your children are not listening to a word you say – worry that they are watching everything you do!**

Keep this booklet available for reference – you never know when it could come in handy!

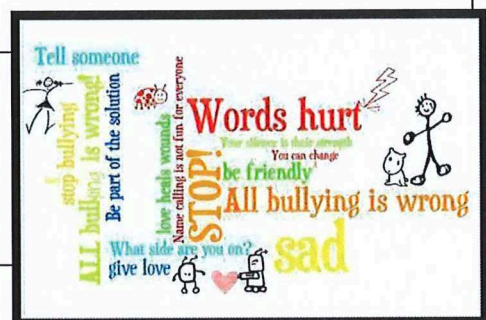
## How do I know if my child is being bullied?

If you think your child may be being bullied, look out for:

- behaviour changes,
- withdrawal,
- not wanting to go to school,
- lots of stomach-aches, headaches or non-specific illness.

Sometimes these ailments will be real, and sometimes they may be made-up, but whether the illness is real or not, the worry certainly is, so it needs to be taken seriously.

Help your child to talk to you. Use books and TV plots to open up discussions about bullying. With younger children dolls, teddies or puppets are a good way to help them talk about their worries and feelings.



## What should I do if I think my child is being bullied?

Your child may not tell you or us that he or she is being bullied. If you suspect it is happening, look out for the signs (see above).

- Do not get angry or threaten to visit the school or parent of the other child – this will only frighten your child further.
- Praise your child for telling you and reassure them that they have done the right thing.
- Listen to your child, accept your child's feelings and encourage them to talk about their worries – however minor it may seem to you the feelings are very real for them.
- Don't jump in with advice or try solve the problem for them. Listen to their ideas, unless they are likely to end up in serious danger or trouble.
- If you tell your child to fight back or say something 'clever' to the bullies they may well end up feeling twice as bad. Not only are they being bullied, but they have failed to stop it as well.
- Work doubly hard to help them feel valued and important.
- Help your child to think about what they would like to happen, and ask how you can help - if your child feels in danger, make sure that they have a plan for keeping safe. Avoid the children doing the bullying, e.g. staying with a group of friends, staying in safe areas, knowing who to go to for help etc.
- Tell your child that you have to inform your child's class teacher at this point and agree how you can do this in the best way so your child does not feel anxious about this happening.

### **What should I do if my child continues to be bullied?**

If the bullying carries on after your child has carried out their own strategies, there are further steps that you can take:

- Collect any evidence e.g. keep a diary of exactly what was said or done, when and where, keep any text messages, emails, or posts on social media.
- Alert the school. Make sure you talk to your child before you do this but be clear that this is what you must do. Agree with your child when is the best time for you to do this – maybe during lesson time or after school.
- When you talk to school please be specific about what has been happening. Ask us what we will do and what we would advise you to do. Remember that we all

### **What should my child do if they are being bullied?**

We need to help our children to feel safe to tell us if they know bullying is happening. Children can tell any member of staff in school, they can tell one of our anti-bullying ambassadors or they can put a note in the 'worry box' in their classroom.

### **What should my child do if they witness bullying?**

Talk to your child about what they can do to support a child who is being bullied. They could befriend the child and be kind to them, include them in their games and they must tell an adult what is going on. Tell your child to be an 'Upstander' and not a bystander.



### **What should I do if my child is bullying others?**

If you are told that your child is bullying others don't immediately dismiss the idea or rush into punishing them. Try not to call them a bully as we are all capable of bullying others.

When you talk, stay calm and remind them that it is the behaviour you do not like not them.

Listen to what they have to say. If they deny it, arrange to see the teacher. Stay calm and listen to what the teacher has to say.

Talk to your child about how the other person feels - they may not realise how much they are hurting, frightening or upsetting the other person.

Help your child to develop confidence to make friends – happy people don't need to bully others.

## Why don't schools just get rid of bullies?

Parents are often surprised when schools don't automatically exclude children who are bullying others. As parents our first concern will always be for our own child's safety and happiness.

There are three reasons why schools don't automatically exclude bullies:

1. If schools excluded every child who has ever bullied that would include many children. Many children in every school have either been bullied, seen bullying or bullied themselves. There is no evidence that children are born bullies or targets - they change roles according to where they are and who they are with.
2. If schools simply moved the problem onto another school other children will continue to suffer. The best thing to do is to deal with the problem and try to stop the child from bullying altogether. The school will always have the right to exclude them if the behaviour does not improve following all necessary actions.
3. There are always ways of changing bullying behaviour. Helping the bully to understand how the other child is feeling and the effect of bullying on them, teaching them to stand up to peer pressure from others, giving them support to manage the problems they are facing in their own lives - all of these things can change bullying behaviour for good.

Try to understand what we are doing at school and why. When children who are bullied are asked what they want to happen they very rarely mention punishing the other child or revenge, they almost always say: **'I just want it to stop.'**



More information can be found on the school's website in the Anti-Bullying section, including the school's Anti-Bullying Policy and the Pathways of Help that school follows when dealing with incidents of bullying.

<http://sacredheartmoreton.co.uk/>

These websites also offer useful information about how to deal with bullying, for parents:

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

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

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

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

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

Don't let  
others  
stop  
YOU  
from being  
who you are  
because  
of who  
THEY  
are.



What do we do to stop bullying at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School?

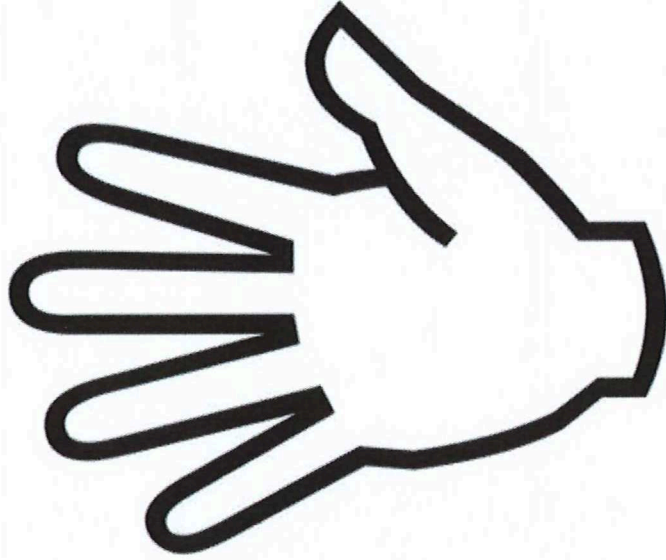
Our Golden Rules encourage good behaviour:

- ❖ We take part in anti-bullying week every year
- ❖ Displays around school remind us that bullying is wrong and show ways to help.
- ❖ PHSE lessons and circle time activities.
- ❖ Worry boxes in every classroom.



My 5 Finger Friends

Think of 5 people you could talk to if you felt unhappy or thought you were being bullied. Write their names on the fingers of this hand then keep this leaflet somewhere safe.



**Sacred Heart  
Catholic Primary  
School**



Care, Courtesy  
& Commitment

**Child-friendly  
Anti-Bullying  
Policy**

## How can bullying make a person feel or act?

In our School a bully is someone who is being mean or unkind to the same person over and over again on purpose. Their behaviour is meant to hurt, frighten or upset the other person. Bullying is something that happens:

Several  
Times  
On  
Purpose



Bullying can be .....

**Emotional:** Hurting people's feelings and leaving you out.

**Physical:** Punching, kicking, spitting, hitting, pushing, pinching.

**Verbal:** Using unkind words to hurt.

**Cyber** Saying unkind things by text, email and online.

**Racist:** Calling people names because of the colour of their skin, their religious beliefs or where they come from.

## What is Anti-Bullying?

It is all the things we do in school to stop bullying happening and to make our school a happy and safe place for everyone.

## What will happen if I tell someone in school that I am being bullied:

- ❖ We will listen to you
- ❖ We will help find ways to make the bullying stop

## What will happen to the bully?

- ❖ Teachers will work with them to understand why they are bullying and make sure they stop.

## What can I do if I am being bullied?

### Tell someone you trust:

- ❖ A friend
- ❖ Parents/carers
- ❖ A member of staff in school
- ❖ Brothers/Sisters/Grandparents

## START TELLING OTHER PEOPLE

## What should I do if I see someone else being bullied?

- ❖ Don't walk away or ignore the bullying
- ❖ Tell the bully to stop if it is safe to do so.
- ❖ Don't stay silent or the bullying will keep happening. Tell someone.

Feeling sick

Worried

Sad

Anxious

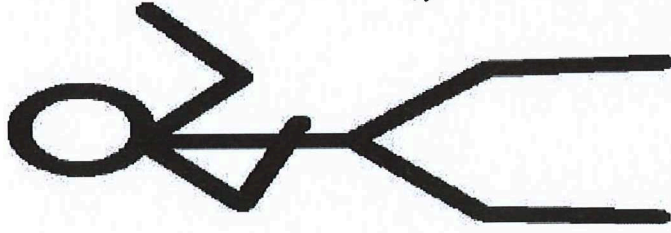
Angry

Shy

Unhappy

Scared

Nervous



Butterflies in your tummy

**We never want anyone to feel like this at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School.**