



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Anti-Bullying/Cyber Bullying Policy

2026-27

Date reviewed: July 2026

Approved by Governors: September 2026

Next review date: September 2027 (or sooner if statutory guidance changes).

Anti-Bullying Policy (Including Cyber-Bullying)

Bullying is defined as behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group. Bullying can occur face-to-face or online and can have a significant impact on a child's welfare, wellbeing, attendance, achievement, and mental health.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, caring, respectful and inclusive environment where every member of the school community is valued and treated with dignity.

We recognise that bullying can take many forms, including:

- **Physical** – hitting, kicking, pushing, damaging or taking belongings.
- **Verbal** – name-calling, insults, offensive comments or threats.
- **Indirect/Social** – exclusion, spreading rumours, humiliation or manipulation of friendships.
- **Cyber-bullying** – using technology, social media, online platforms, messaging services, gaming platforms, photographs or videos to intentionally upset, threaten, embarrass or harm another person.
- **Prejudice-based bullying** – targeting individuals because of race, religion, disability, special educational needs, gender, sexual orientation, family circumstances, medical conditions, allergies or any protected characteristic.

Pupils with Additional Vulnerabilities

The school recognises that some children may be more vulnerable to bullying than others, including:

- Children with SEND.
- Children with disabilities.
- Looked After Children.
- Children with medical conditions.
- Children with allergies.
- Children requiring intimate care or personal care support.
- Children who are perceived as being different by their peers.

We recognise that pupils with allergies or medical conditions can sometimes experience teasing, exclusion, intimidation or bullying linked to their condition. Such behaviour will not be tolerated.

Staff will remain vigilant for any signs that a child is being bullied because of:

- Their medical needs.
- Their use of medication (including inhalers or EpiPens).
- Food allergies or dietary requirements.
- Continence needs.
- Physical differences.
- Disabilities or additional needs.

Any concerns will be investigated promptly and recorded in accordance with school procedures.

Reporting and Recording

Children are encouraged to report bullying by speaking to:

- Their class teacher.
- Any trusted adult in school.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- A member of the Inclusion Team.
- Worry box note
- Their parents/carers, who can contact the school.

All incidents of bullying will be:

- Taken seriously.
- Investigated promptly.
- Recorded appropriately.
- Monitored to ensure the bullying has stopped.
- Shared with parents/carers where appropriate.
- Recorded using CPOMS- incident reporting

Where bullying presents a safeguarding concern, incidents will be recorded on **CPOMS** and managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Cyber-Bullying

The school takes all reports of cyber-bullying seriously.

Pupils are taught through:

- Purple Mash Computing Curriculum.
- RSHE (Ten:Ten Life to the Full).
- Online Safety Lessons.
- Assemblies.
- Safer Internet Day.

Children learn:

- How to stay safe online.
- Responsible use of social media.
- How to report concerns.
- The risks associated with sharing images or personal information.
- Respectful online behaviour.

Reports of cyber-bullying occurring outside school will be considered where there is an impact on pupils' wellbeing, relationships or education within school.

Support for Victims

The school will provide appropriate support for pupils affected by bullying, which may include:

- Regular pastoral check-ins.
- Support from trusted adults.
- Inclusion Team support.
- Social skills interventions.
- Parent meetings.

- Individual support plans where appropriate.
- Referrals to external agencies if necessary.

Support for Pupils Displaying Bullying Behaviour

The school recognises that children who bully others may also require support.

Measures may include:

- Restorative conversations.
- Behaviour support plans.
- Reflection activities.
- Social and emotional interventions.
- Parent meetings.
- Sanctions in line with the Behaviour Policy.

Creating an Anti-Bullying Culture

St Mary's promotes an anti-bullying culture through:

- Catholic values and mission.
- Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policies.
- Circle Time.
- Worship and assemblies.
- School Parliament.
- RSHE lessons.
- Online safety education.
- Anti-Bullying Week activities.
- Pupil voice opportunities.
- Celebration of diversity, inclusion and respect.

We aim to ensure all pupils feel safe, respected, valued and able to speak out if they experience or witness bullying.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour and Rewards Policy
- Equality Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct