

Anti-Bullying

Date:

May 2016

Review Date:

May 2018

"We want children to be happy and safe in our caring, Christian community."

Playing

Often children play games that may involve specific rules; a shared joke; someone being 'it'; someone being chased. Sometimes this may result in one child becoming upset at another because they feel: cheated; left out; picked on or because they have been pushed, tackled or tripped. These incidents are often solved by children themselves, particularly as they get older. However, children should always inform an adult if they need help. This is playing, not bullying.

Teasing

Although we expect children to be kind to one another, sometimes this does not happen. If another child says or does something that upsets you, we call this 'teasing'. This behaviour sometimes happens between friends and siblings and it is usually stopped when an adult is told at the time when the teasing takes place. This is teasing, not bullying. However, if it is not challenged, it can lead to bullying.

Bullying

1. **Bullying is when a child, or a group of children, do or say things to have power over another child.**
2. **Bullying is usually repeated.**
3. **Bullying makes the victim feel scared and unhappy.**

How do we prevent bullying?

We are proud of our children's excellent behaviour at school and the way in which they encourage one another at work and play. However, sometimes children let themselves down. Teasing or other hurtful behaviour can occasionally take place. Bullying does not have to.

Bullying is extremely rare at St Margaret's. However, if you suspect someone is being bullied, you should speak to an adult that you trust, such as your teacher. If, after investigation, the adult believes that bullying may be taking place, Mr Wilson or Mrs Bushell will be informed. When bullying is reported, it is dealt with swiftly and parents of the alleged perpetrator(s) and victim(s) are informed and involved in the process of moving forward.



Anti-Bullying

Cyber-Bullying / Trolling

Cyber-bullying is when a person or a group of people uses online digital technology to threaten, tease, harass, upset or humiliate someone else. In many cases, a single act can go viral resulting in a feeling of 'repeated' bullying as wider audiences are involved. The victim's privacy can be invaded "24/7".

Although cyber-bullying is more associated with secondary school, it is important for parents and children in primary school to be aware of the dangers and how to prevent cyber-bullying taking place.

Homophobic language and behaviour

Homophobic language or behaviour is offensive. Describing someone as gay, lesbian (or other language that refers to a person's sexuality) as a way of insulting or offending is never tolerated. Equally, behaviour that victimises on the basis of sexuality is never tolerated. Any incidents of homophobic language or behaviour should be challenged and reported to Mr Wilson. Parents will be informed and involved in any follow up.

Racist language and behaviour

Racist language or behaviour is offensive. Language or behaviour that makes reference to a person's skin colour or ethnicity as a way of insulting or offending is never tolerated. Equally, behaviour that victimises on the basis of race or colour is never tolerated. Any incidents of racist language or behaviour should be challenged and reported to Mr Wilson. Parents will be informed and involved in any follow up.

Safety beyond the school gates

Parents & carers should take responsibility for their children outside of school. However, the school will support parents in dealing with incidents involving their children.

If a child or group of children has been assaulted, the Lee Green Safer Neighbourhood Team should be informed, with details of what has been witnessed. (020 8284 8497) In the case of emergency, call 999.

Child Protection

If you are in danger or being harmed or bullied at home, you should tell an adult you trust such as your teacher. They will inform Mrs Bushell. If she is unavailable, Mr Wilson will be informed.

If you are worried about something that is happening in school or outside of school, you can tell Mrs Bushell or phone Childline on 0800 1111.