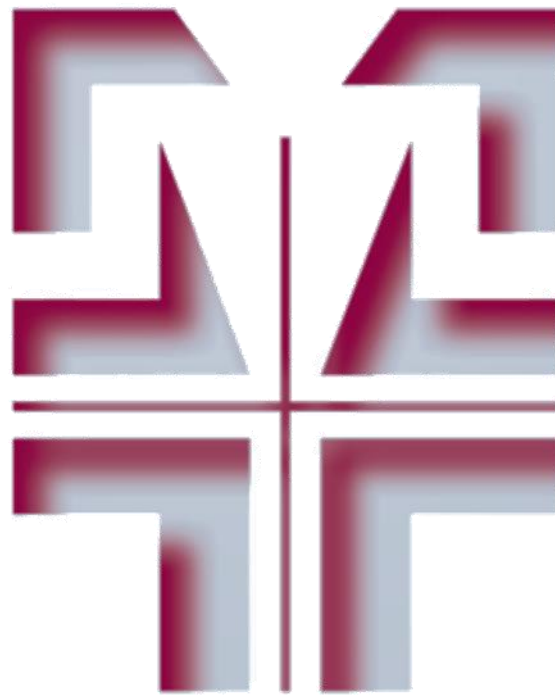


Saint Michael's CE High School

A Church of England Academy



Therefore, choose

Anti - Bullying Policy

September 2022

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR CHRISTIAN VISION

Our motto is **'Therefore choose [life]'** from Deuteronomy.



We understand this to mean growing in **body, mind and spirit**, so that all who learn and work here may flourish, experiencing the joy and hope of **'Life in all its fullness'**.

This is further explained in our Mission Statement,

*'As a vibrant learning community
we choose to serve God,
pursue excellence
and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual.'*

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Aims

In our school our Christian vision shapes all that we do. We are very much a 'team' at St Michael's; staff, pupils, parents and governors work closely together to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to grow in body, mind and spirit; to flourish as a child of God and experience the joy and hope of 'life in all its fullness'.

In keeping with the Christian ethos of Saint Michael's, it is therefore the aim of the school to eliminate all types of bullying. We strive to:

- provide a secure environment for the physical safety of pupils and staff;
- provide emotional security where the uniqueness and intrinsic worth of pupils and staff as valuable members of God's creation are recognised;
- ensure that pupils have a sense of belonging;
- instil confidence and facilitate a healthy, happy and social learning environment where pupils can enjoy their learning and so become the best that they can be and do the best that they can do.
- continuously promote the value of treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is **deliberate hurtful behaviour** that is **repeated over a period of time**, and where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves.

Bullying is not restricted to relationships between pupils. Bullying can also be a problem in adult life and can occur in the workplace.

Bullying falls into two major categories.

Emotionally harmful behaviour such as:

- taunting (e.g. about appearance, health conditions, home/family circumstances)
- spreading hurtful rumours
- name calling, (e.g. relating to SEN, sexual orientation, sexist or sexual bullying, religion/beliefs, gender reassignment or disability)
- racist remarks
- exclusion from social groups
- cyberbullying for example malicious text messages, emails or messages on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter.

Physically harmful behaviour such as:

- hitting
- kicking
- taking/destroying belongings
- intimidation
- invasion of personal space
- coercing victims into acts which they do not wish to commit

- unwelcome sexual advances

Possible Signs of Bullying

Pupils who are being bullied may show changes in behaviour.

- They may become shy, introverted, aggressive or feign illness. They may show changes in work patterns, may lack concentration, appear to be tired or may even play truant from school.
- They may be afraid to walk to or from school or may not wish to travel on the school bus.
- They may cry themselves to sleep, have nightmares or say that they feel ill in the mornings.
- They may be afraid to say what is wrong.

Implementation

As a staff:

- We will seek, through tutorial work, worship and assembly, day to day contact with the pupils and through example, to ensure that every individual is able to enjoy a secure, happy and productive experience of school life and is able to *"be the best that they can be and do the best that they can."*
- We will be vigilant and responsive to bullying behaviour.
- We will give support, counselling, and guidance to victims and transgressors alike, as well as implementing necessary sanctions. We must be seen to be fair and just. The policy links to the Behaviour for Learning Policy. A range of sanctions will apply. Direct action will remind pupils that all forms of bullying are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- We believe that injury, damage or theft and other incidents may require a serious response, perhaps involving exclusion from school or contact with the police.
- We believe that the early involvement of the parents of both the transgressor and the victim is essential.

Encouragement to Tell

By being vigilant, maintaining a high profile and openly talking about the impact of bullying we are encouraging victims, those who witness bullying and parents to report it. We encourage them to speak to parents, a trusted adult, a member of staff or use the SHARP system which is available via the school web site. It can be found under the pastoral tab. Clear instructions about how to report an incident are given. Those reporting the incident need to give the name of the victim and the name of the transgressor are both given otherwise it may not be possible for staff to offer help.

Procedures

Students or parents should be encouraged to report bullying to any trusted adult for example, Tutor, Pupil Manager or a member of the wellbeing team. The member of staff will ensure that the young person is safe

- Students will be taken seriously at all times and information will be dealt with sensitively. Details will be recorded accurately.
- Appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible and the victim will be kept informed of the school's action.
- The situation will be monitored.
- Parents/Carers will be kept informed where appropriate

- Appropriate action will be taken with the perpetrator. Action could include restorative justice or other sanctions in line with the Whole School Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- All incidents must be reported to the relevant wellbeing staff which will be logged. Pupil Managers or other member of the Wellbeing team will follow up with the victim to ensure that the situation has not started again and parents should be encouraged to report any further instances of unacceptable behaviour.
- When incidents occur off the school site, St Michael's will have regard to The Education and Inspectors Act 2006 which gives the Headteacher the legal powers to apply sanctions consistent with the school's BFL Policy. When required, the police, the Safer Travel Unit, and the wellbeing teams in other schools may well be involved.
- Tutors remain the first point of contact for pupils and parents/carers
- Pupil Managers make this a regular agenda item in weekly meetings with SLT link and senior teacher - wellbeing.
- Actively monitor the more vulnerable pupils such as SEND, CLA, post adoption pupils.
- All such issues will be discussed with the senior teacher, wellbeing.
- The senior teacher and deputy headteacher, as part of ongoing training will speak at staff meetings about what to do when an incident is reported. (Also at the induction of new staff)
- Children will be reminded of such issues throughout the year (Living Education, assemblies etc)
- The school will actively promote Anti-Bullying Week.
- The Peer Mentoring scheme will offer support to pupils in Year 7.
- Parents will be informed of the policy at Y7 Information Evenings and also on other occasions when the Behaviour for Learning policy is shared with parents.

Child on Child Abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing other children. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".

We also recognise the gendered nature of child-on-child abuse (i.e. that it is more likely that girls will be victims and boys perpetrators). However, all child-on-child abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously and **may result in exclusion from school.**

Child on child abuse can take many different forms such as:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between children
- physical abuse which can include hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling or otherwise causing physical harm
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes, and online sexual harassment, which may be stand alone or part of a broader pattern of abuse
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party

- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)

Some cases of pupils 'abusing' other pupils will be dealt with under this school's behaviour policy, but the child protection and safeguarding policy will apply to any allegations that raise safeguarding concerns. This might include where the alleged behaviour:

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Is violent
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol

If a pupil makes an allegation of abuse against another pupil:

- A member of the SLT and/or DSL will be informed immediately
- School may contact the local authority children's social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence
- A risk assessment and support plan may be put into place for all children involved (including the victim(s), the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made and any others affected)
- School may contact the children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), if appropriate

We will minimise the risk of child-on-child abuse by:

- Challenging any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour, including requesting or sending sexual images
- Being vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders – for example, sexualised or aggressive touching or grabbing towards female pupils, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys
- Ensuring our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent
- Ensuring pupils know they can talk to staff confidentially by information given through tutorial time, assemblies, school website, student council, TV screens etc.
- Ensuring staff are trained to understand that a child harming another child could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy

Expected action taken from all staff

Although the type of abuse may have a varying effect on the victim and initiator of the harm, these simple steps can help clarify the situation and establish the facts before deciding upon the consequences for those involved in perpetrating harm.

- Deal with a situation of child on child abuse immediately and sensitively (thinking about the language used).
- Gather the information as soon as possible to get the facts.
- Inform the Pupil Manager as soon as possible with details of the incident who will in turn inform the DSL.

In all cases Staff should not be prejudiced, judgemental, dismissive or irresponsible in dealing with such sensitive matters. If from the information that you gather you believe any young person to be at risk of significant harm you must refer the matter to the DSL but if they are unavailable, remember that anyone can make an immediate safeguarding referral to social care (where a crime has been committed the police should be involved also).

If, once appropriate advice has been sought from police/social care you have agreement to inform parents or have been allocated that role from the other services involved then you need to inform the parents as soon as possible.

For the young person who has been harmed

What support they require depends on the individual young person. It may be that they wish to seek counselling or one to one support via a mentor. It may also be that they feel able to deal with the incident(s) on their own or with support of family and friends.

If the young person feels particularly vulnerable it may be that they are supported through the CAF/TAF process with a referral to Early Help.

For the young person who has displayed harmful behaviour

It is important to find out why the young person has behaved in such a way. It may be that they are experiencing their own difficulties and may even have been harmed themselves in a similar way. In such cases support such as one to one mentoring or counselling may also be necessary. Particular support from identified services may be necessary through a CAF/TAF/Early Help referral and the young person may require additional support from family members.

Preventative Strategies for Schools and Settings

At St Michael's we strive to be proactive in developing strategies to prevent child on child abuse rather than responding to issues in a reactive way.

We recognise that child on child abuse can and will occur even with the most stringent of policies and support mechanisms. It is important in supporting young people, to talk about any issues and to share information with others. We strive to create an open climate where young people feel safe to share information about anything that is upsetting or worrying them. Living Education, assemblies, Worship and many lessons continue to address issues such as prejudiced behaviour.

The wellbeing team will continue to signpost the help available to young people. Information about support services is available on notice boards, TV screens and on the website so young people can seek their own solutions should they wish to. In the same way external providers talk to young people about specific issues in support of the prevention of child on child abuse.

Every aspect of school life, our distinctive Christian Ethos and school motto 'Therefore choose' encourage our young people to develop 'rules of acceptable behaviour' which help to create a positive ethos where we all understand the boundaries of behaviour before it becomes abusive.

Our Ultimate Aims

- Pupils are able to grow in body, mind and spirit, flourish as a child of God and experience the hope and joy of life in all its fullness.
- Our mission statement encourages all to 'celebrate the uniqueness of each individual'.
- That dignity and personal respect are central to our behaviour for learning policy and that all have a right to feel and be safe. We expect pupils to be polite, kind, avoid swearing or putting others down, keeping hands, feet and objects to themselves.

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