



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents – Autumn 2, 2020



Welcome to our new Safeguarding Newsletter

Keeping children safe and well is our number one priority at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Every half term we produce a newsletter based on a safeguarding theme. This newsletter is designed to help school and parents to work together to safeguard children's wellbeing.

This half term's topic is **Anti-Bullying/Kindness Week**.

Next week we are taking part in Anti-Bullying Week, We call this '**Kindness Week**'. Children will be completing lots of different activities and assemblies where we are reinforcing the messages about how our school approaches bullying. This includes knowing what steps to take if someone is being bullied, ensuring our pupils know what to do if they are being bullied, how to deal with anyone who bullies and that everyone should take bullying seriously because of the long-term impact it can have on friendships, self-esteem as well as emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Definition- What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour by an individual or a group of individuals, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The school defines bullying using the acronym STOP: Several Times On Purpose The three main types of bullying are:

- Physical (hitting, kicking, theft)
- Verbal (name calling, racist remarks or comments which relate to any personal characteristics including gender and ethnicity)
- Indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups, or increasingly via 'cyber' bullying through new and emerging technology).

At St Joseph's School children are encouraged to report bullying in school to a teacher or staff member.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts; no one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Children who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. Bullying can cause stress and can affect a child's health. Schools and parents have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

Aims

At School we aim to:

- Promote a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behaviour.
- Ensure all teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents have an understanding of what bullying is.
- Inform children and parents of the school's expectations and to foster a productive partnership, which helps maintain a bully-free environment.
- Identify and deal with incidents of bullying consistently and effectively.
- Promote a zero tolerance approach towards incidents of bullying.



On Monday 28th September St Joseph's school took part in 'The Big Anti Bullying Assembly' a special film brought to us by Nationwide Building Society and The Diana Award which was broadcasted throughout the whole of the UK. The purpose of the assembly was to educate and empower our pupils to help tackle bullying. We joined thousands of schools by 'putting our hands up' to end bullying.



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Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- changes their usual routine
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- attempts or threatens self-harm
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares/bedwetting
- regularly feels ill in the morning
- begins to do poorly in school work
- comes home with clothes torn or books damaged
- has possessions go “missing”
- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes unreasonable when dealing with school issues
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

Dealing with Bullying

It is recognised that incidents of bullying occur in all schools. It is essential that all such incidents are taken seriously and dealt with in an appropriate manner. A pupil or parent may report an incident to any member of staff;

St Joseph's School recognises a collective responsibility among the whole staff to ensure that any incidents are dealt with in a consistent and effective manner. The staff, led by the Executive Principal and AHOS, will be responsible for embedding antibullying awareness in the policies and practices of the school.

The following steps may be taken when dealing with incidents:

- Staff to investigate alleged bullying by consulting the victim(s).
- If it is felt that an incident of bullying has taken place, then it will be taken seriously and investigated. A member of staff wishing to report an incident of bullying should approach the class teacher responsible for that particular pupil.
- At this point, the staff involved should reach agreement as to whether this incident constitutes bullying or should be addressed as an incident of poor behaviour.
- If deemed to be bullying by the Senior leadership team, a member of staff will speak to the pupils involved and proceed accordingly. Parents will be informed by a member of teaching staff through an appropriate channel of communication. Where bullying has been identified, a written copy of events will be kept and this will be updated until the situation has been resolved.
- The parents of the perpetrator(s) will also be contacted via telephone or letter and offered a meeting in school to discuss the incidents.
- Sanctions will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned in accordance with the school's discipline policy.

Change Starts With Us

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe that a simple act of kindness can help a person feel empowered to stand up to bullying. We are encouraging everyone to get involved in choosing kindness and be the reason to make someone smile.



A Prayer for Anti-bullying

Lord, help us to see every person as made in your image and likeness. May we always remember that each person's name is holy and special. Help us to see you in every person's eyes, especially in the eyes of those who suffer because of mean words. Help us to remember that when we hurt another with our words or actions, we are hurting you, Lord. You love every person with all your heart. May we always use our voice to show your love and your kindness. We ask this in your name.