

English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School



Anti-Bullying Policy

Mission Statement

Our children are all unique, beautiful **individuals** but together we are a **masterpiece**, brothers and sisters in **Christ**.

As witnesses of Christ, working together as a **Team**, we strive to promote the **Gospel Values** and Teachings of Jesus by providing a **caring, stimulating environment**, with **nurture, trust, love** and **tolerance** through our spirituality, learning and play. By making connections with Jesus, we promote **high ambitions** and **confidence** to achieve our goals.

Aims and Vision of Policy

The school recognises that bullying is a reality in society but strives, by example and support, to eradicate it within English Martyrs' School. It is intended that pupils will see in the relationships between adults and pupils, and between adults and other adults, examples of mutual respect and that all members of the community will be able to work and develop in an environment free from aggression.

Pupils are encouraged to value each person as a unique creation of God.

It is recognised that physical aggression is not the only form of bullying and that action and language, which is aggressive, offensive, sexist or racist, is also unacceptable (this also includes online/cyber bullying). Some examples are:

- Physical abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Emotional abuse such as excluding an individual(s) from a group
- Cyber abuse (See below for definition)
- Child on child abuse (referring to specific guidance in KCSIE 2026 Part five: Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and Lancashire Procedures and the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy). Child on child abuse will be dealt with through the appropriate safeguarding pathway.

Pupils are encouraged to tell staff, their friends or anyone else when they or their friends are being bullied. Each incident will be dealt with on its merits so that all pupils can see that a positive response is made by staff to allegations.

Incidents of bullying will be dealt with by staff in an objective and positive way. If an incident of alleged bullying is reported to a member of staff then the class teacher will be informed, and they will determine the extent of the problem. Where appropriate the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will be informed, gather information, and decide on the action to be taken. The response will be appropriate and may involve:

- Reprimand and an assurance of no repetition
- Detention
- Exclusion from lessons
- Home contact (both victim and alleged bully)
- Exclusion from school in extreme cases

Co-operation between pupils and respect for each person are encouraged so that the norm of relationships is mutual tolerance, leading to support of each other.

There are occasions when bullying is perceived by the recipient but not by the person doing the bullying. On these situations, it is appropriate that the perceptions of each child are brought to the attention of all involved. In such situations, the raising of awareness should be sufficient to stop the alleged bullying.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else. (See also School's Online Safety Policy)

Some features of cyberbullying are different from other forms of bullying: Cyberbullying can take place at any time and can intrude into spaces that have previously been regarded as safe or personal. The audience can be very large and reached rapidly. The difficulty in controlling electronically circulated messages means the scale and scope of cyberbullying can be greater than for other forms of bullying. People who cyberbully may attempt to remain anonymous. This can be extremely distressing for those being bullied. The person cyberbullying may never be in the same physical space as their target.

Cyberbullying can take place both between peers and across generations; teachers have also been targets. Age or size are not important. Bystanders can also become accessories to the bullying, for example, by passing on a humiliating image. Some instances of cyberbullying are will deeply upsetting or offensive to the recipient) or a lack of awareness of the consequences – for example saying something negative online about another pupil, or friend that they don't expect to be forwarded or viewed outside their immediate group.

SEND

Children with SEND are more vulnerable to being bullied, therefore, staff act swiftly upon and exerting vigilance towards the needs of any children with SEND and any allegations made by or towards them.

Policy written and updated: June 2014

Agreed by Governors: June 2014

Policy to be reviewed: September 2015

Policy reviewed: September 2015

Policy updated: November 2016 (additional statement for SEND)

Policy to be reviewed: September 2017

Updated September 2017 (No updates)

Updated September 2019 (Additional signpost to Online Safety Policy)

Updated September 2020: no updates

Updated September 2021: no updates

Updated September 2022: links to other policies refreshed

Updated September 2023: Addition of child on child abuse, reference to KCSIE 2023, how child on child abuse allegations will be dealt with

Updated September 2024: Addition of child on child abuse, reference to KCSIE 2024, how child on child abuse allegations will be dealt with; links to other policies refreshed

Updated September 2025: Links to other policies refreshed

Updated September 2026: Links to updated policies refreshed