



Sacred Heart Primary School Anti-Bullying Statement

Sacred Heart Primary School follows Midlothian guidelines 'Approaches to Anti Bullying for Children and Young People'. It states that:
'Any form of bullying is unacceptable, including prejudice-based bullying and cyber-bullying'.
This is in line with our school values – Honesty, Equality, Ambition, Respect, Trust and Faith

What is bullying?

Bullying is deliberate hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time, making it difficult for the person concerned to defend themselves.

Bullying can be:-

- Emotional – being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting
- Physical – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual – unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic – focussing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber – all areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse
- Mobile threats by text messaging and calls.

At Sacred Heart, we take bullying seriously and it will not be tolerated. Pupils and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported. The ethos of our school fosters high expectations of outstanding behaviour and any behaviour that falls below this will be challenged.

We nurture and encourage a climate where all children feel safe and confident. Through the curriculum and ethos of the school, we promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and emotional development of each child. Throughout their school life, we seek to prepare children for the responsibilities and experience of adult life. We do this by reinforcing positive behaviour and providing a caring and responsive attitude to their needs.

We take allegations of bullying very seriously and do not use the phrase lightly. We acknowledge that there is a difference between 'bullying' and 'being unkind' and have procedures in place to monitor unkind behaviours which may lead to targeted, bullying behaviours. We work hard to help our learners understand the difference between 'bullying' and 'falling out' or 'being unkind'.

What happens if bullying is reported?

When an allegation of bullying has been made, it is formally recorded, with all relevant factual information.

Depending on the nature of the incident, a reported and/or witnessed incident of bullying is initially dealt with by the class teacher. The incident is discussed with the children to ensure that both parties fully understand the seriousness of what has occurred.

Restorative practices are used to support both parties in understanding why the incident arose, how it affected other people and appropriate action is taken.

Parents/carers of all learners involved in a bullying incident will be notified.

In severe or repeated circumstances, bullying incidents will be dealt with by the Head Teacher or Depute Head Teacher