



Anti-Bullying Policy

Maricourt Catholic High School

Maricourt seeks to provide and sustain a living Catholic Community which is rooted in Christian Values and where growth and knowledge, respect, love and fellowship are shared by all.

Governor approval 2017

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Introduction

At Maricourt Catholic High School we will;

- Develop our ability to be sensitive to the needs of others in order to grow satisfactory personal relationships.
- Develop a reasoned set of social and moral values in keeping with Catholic teaching, applicable to issues in contemporary society.

We will achieve this by:

- Keeping Christian truths and values before the minds of our pupils through both instruction and example in a caring environment.
- Investing in a strong pastoral system to give a secure foundation from which pupils can develop a proper sense of self worth and be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for themselves and others as they mature.

Guiding principles for preventing and tackling bullying

We at Maricourt Catholic High School believe that all pupils have the right to feel happy, safe and included. Pupils have the right to work in an environment without harassment, intimidation or fear.

We recognise the effects that bullying can have on pupils' feelings of worth and on their school work, and the school community will actively promote an anti-bullying environment.

Our definition of bullying

Bullying involves dominance of one pupil by another, or a group of others, is premeditated and usually forms a pattern of behaviour.

Bullying is therefore:

- ❖ deliberately hurtful
- ❖ repeated, often over a period of time
- ❖ difficult for victims to defend themselves against.

It can take many forms but the main types are:

- ❖ Physical - hitting, kicking, taking another's belongings
- ❖ Verbal - name calling, insulting, making offensive remarks
- ❖ Indirect - spreading nasty stories about someone, exclusion from social groups, being made the subject of malicious rumours, sending malicious e-mails or text messages on mobile phones.

Some forms of bullying are attacks not only on the individual, but also on the group to which he or she may belong. Within school we will pay particular attention to:

- ❖ Racial harassment and racist bullying.
- ❖ Bullying because of pupils' religious beliefs.
- ❖ Bullying because of physical characteristics or accents.
- ❖ Bullying because of pupils' sexual orientation (including the use of homophobic language).
- ❖ Bullying of pupils who have special educational needs or disabilities.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of Information Communications Technology (ICT) particularly mobile phones and the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

Pupils are given guidance through assemblies and curriculum areas on the traumas of cyberbullying and how to react to it.

Our ways of trying to prevent cyberbullying

- ❖ Making the whole school community aware of the impact of cyberbullying
- ❖ Making all pupils aware of their responsibilities in their use of ICT
- ❖ Conducting searches of Internet use in school by being able to access any e-mails and website use
- ❖ Providing and publicising different ways of reporting cyberbullying
- ❖ Providing support for all pupils who experience cyberbullying in or out of school
- ❖ Making clear to all pupils the sanctions in place for the misuse of ICT both in and out of school

Signs of bullying

These can include:

- ❖ Attendance problems
- ❖ Reluctance to stay after school/reluctance to go home
- ❖ Poor class work / changes in behaviour
- ❖ Anxiety
- ❖ Losing money and belongings
- ❖ Being aggressive, bullying others

Creating an anti-bullying climate in school

We at Maricourt Catholic High School actively promote positive behaviour to create an environment where pupils behave well and take responsibility for each other's emotional and social well-being.

Our curriculum is used to:

- ❖ Raise awareness about bullying and our anti-bullying policy
- ❖ Increase understanding for victims and help build an anti-bullying ethos
- ❖ Teach pupils how to constructively manage their relationships with others.

PSHEE/Citizenship lessons, assemblies, tutor time and the work of our learning mentors are some of the many examples that are used to show pupils what they can do to prevent bullying.

We also promote appropriate behaviour through direct teaching, and by creating an emotionally and socially safe environment where these skills are learned and practised.

Our aim is to create a climate where bullying is not accepted by anyone within the school community.

Bullying will not be tolerated and we make this clear in the information we give to pupils and parents when they join our school.

Our strategies for the prevention of bullying include :

- ❖ Providing a safe and secure learning environment for all pupils.
- ❖ Reducing and eradicating wherever possible, instances in which pupils are made to feel frightened, excluded or unhappy.
- ❖ Promoting an ethos which values individual effort and achievement and develops a sense of respect for others.
- ❖ Encouraging an ethos which emphasises tolerance and consideration of others.
- ❖ Encouraging activities through the curriculum or with support of our strong pastoral system and highly experienced Learning Mentors to help build confidence and self esteem
- ❖ Monitoring pupil behaviour and attitudes towards bullying.
- ❖ Providing a supportive climate which will encourage pupils to report incidents of bullying.
- ❖ Providing high quality support for individuals who are bullied or bully.
- ❖ Establishing a means of dealing with bullying, and of providing support to pupils who have been bullied.
- ❖ Responding effectively to all instances of bullying that are reported to us.

Strategies for dealing with bullying

- ❖ Offering immediate support and continued support
- ❖ Reassuring the pupil that it is not their fault they are being bullied
- ❖ Explaining that there are a number of different approaches to dealing with the incident
- ❖ Affirming that bullying can be stopped and that school will persist with intervention until it does
- ❖ Restoring self-esteem and confidence
- ❖ Involving friends or older pupils in peer support where deemed appropriate

Procedures

Pupils who have been bullied, who see others being bullied or members of staff who receive reports that a pupil has been bullied should report this as soon as possible to a member of the Pastoral Team.

All reports of bullying will be taken seriously and be followed up by a member of the Pastoral Team. They will all be logged and kept by the Progress leader in the pupil's file.

Any member of the Pastoral Team or any other member of staff that deals with a bullying issue will follow up after an incident to check that the bullying has not started again.

Where bullying is of a racist nature, we will record this using the Racial Incident report logged within SIMS.

Pupils who have bullied will be encouraged to discuss what happened, why they became involved and what needs to change.

School will monitor carefully the nature and frequency of bullying. We will regularly survey pupils and frequently make clear that pupils must speak out against bullying and must tell.

When tougher measures are needed

If a pupil refuses to obey clear and explained instructions then at this point it may be necessary to invoke the full range of sanctions that are detailed in the school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

These include:

- ❖ removal from the group
- ❖ withdrawal from breaks and lunchtime
- ❖ detention
- ❖ internal isolation
- ❖ fixed term exclusion from school

Once all procedures have been exhausted the Headteacher has the right to permanently exclude.

Bullying outside the school premises

Schools are not directly responsible for bullying that occurs off the premises however we know that bullying can occur outside the school gates and on journeys to and from school.

Where a pupil or parent tells us of bullying off the school premises we will

- ❖ talk to pupils about how to avoid or handle it
- ❖ speak to the pupils if they are from our school and inform their parents
- ❖ talk to the local police
- ❖ reserve the right to take action under the school's Behaviour and Discipline policy or Online safety policy if social media is used

Our responsibilities

Everyone within school is expected to

- ❖ Act in a respectful way and supportive way towards one another
- ❖ Adhere to and promote the objectives of this policy

Pupils are expected to

Report all incidents of bullying Report any suspected incidents that victims may be afraid to report

- ❖ Support each other and to seek help to ensure that everyone feels safe, and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school

Parents can help by

- ❖ Supporting this policy and procedures
- ❖ Contacting their school if they have any concerns
- ❖ Helping to establish an anti-bullying culture outside of school

We recognise that there may be times when parents feel that we have not dealt well with an incident of bullying and we would ask that this be brought to the Head Teacher's notice. If the Head Teacher cannot resolve these concerns informally, parents can raise their concerns more formally through the school's Complaints Procedure. This involves contacting the clerk to the Governors through school.

Related policies

Our Anti-bullying Policy links with and should be read in conjunction with the other sections of the Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour and Discipline Policy and Online Safety Policy

What informs our policy

This policy takes due regard of the following documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying/20167>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice_2017.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

<http://www.parentinguk.org/resources/bullying-don-t-suffer-in-silence-an-anti-bullying-pack-for-schools/2017>

Online safety policy

Useful websites

www.childnet.com

www.digizen.org

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

bullybusters.co.uk