

# Saint Peter's Primary School



## Anti-Bullying Policy

### Introduction

Renfrewshire Council is committed to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment for all people in its educational establishments. Here at Saint Peter's Primary School, our values are respect, honesty, fairness and responsibility. We understand that bullying is never acceptable and that children and young people have the right to learn in a safe, secure environment. Therefore we believe in creating an environment where bullying cannot thrive.

### Definition of Bullying

In Scotland, bullying is defined as:

*Bullying is both behaviour and impact; the impact is on people's capacity to feel in control of themselves. This is what we term as their sense of 'agency'. Bullying takes place in the context of relationships; it is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out.*

*This behaviour happens face to face and online (respectme, 2015).*

Bullying is both behaviour and impact. Bullying takes place in the context of relationships: it is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out. This behaviour happens face to face and online (*Respect for All, 2015*). This behaviour can harm people physically or emotionally by actions, looks, messages, confrontations or threats (*Renfrewshire Council, Anti-Bullying Policy 2018*).

### Our Approach to Bullying

Staff, parents and pupils work together to reduce bullying behaviour by promoting positive relationships and supporting the development of an environment in which everyone is valued and respected. Renfrewshire Council recognises the impact bullying can have on a child's wellbeing and is committed to preventing, reducing and responding to bullying behaviour in all forms (*Renfrewshire Council, Anti-Bullying Policy, 2018*).

The Head teacher has overall responsibility for preventing and responding to bullying behaviour and promoting respectful relationships within their establishment. All staff must be aware of, and adhere to the school and Council's policies and procedures in relation to bullying. In line with Renfrewshire Council's Anti-Bullying Policy, we recognise that not all disagreements between children are necessarily bullying however, we will always address the behaviour, regardless of the impact.

The following prevention strategies are used:

- PATHS (Positive Alternative Thinking Strategies) Programme
- Anti-bullying focus week.
- Regular check ins with identified pupils (verbally and electronically using 'You Hue').

- Termly GIRFEC meetings with SMT.
- Teachers and support staff model Christian values in their daily teaching
- Assemblies focused on school values and GIRFEC (Getting It Right for Every Child)
- In-service training for staff (Respect Me)
- Pupils given an opportunity to share their thoughts, opinions and ideas.
- On-line awareness (Internet safety training)
- Working in partnership with parents
- Bounceback Programme used for small group work
- Health Week (yearly in June) to focus on mental health awareness

## **What children can expect.**

Renfrewshire Council acknowledges that all children have the right to be safe and bullying is a breach of the Children's Rights. Children have the right to have their views taken into account as outlined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989). In Saint Peter's we promote and use the Children's Rights during assembly. The Children's Rights were used to create our classroom charters at the start of the school year. Children worked with their class teacher to create their class charter. Teachers refer to this regularly to help children understand their rights.

Pupils who took part in the consultation told us that our "school is good at helping them to feel safe". We believe that it is important to listen to all children involved in the situation/incident as this allows them to have a fair chance to talk about their feelings. Renfrewshire Council is committed to ensuring all children have a voice and feel that their opinion is valued (2025). Our pupils stated that they think, "all children should be given a chance" and would like "all bullying to be dealt with quickly".

## **What parents can expect.**

We believe that working closely with parents/carers is crucial to the success of a primary school. In Saint Peter's, staff, parents/carers and pupils work together to reduce bullying behaviour by promoting positive relationships and supporting the development of an environment in which everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

Pupils appreciate good communication and like that, "the school works closely with parents and carers". They feel "that it is important for parents to know what is happening". We believe this is a vital part of the process as it promotes partnership working and highlights the need for a shared responsibility.

Parents who took part in our consultation agree that good communication is imperative in dealing with bullying behaviour. In relation to the question, 'What do you think parents/carers can do to help resolve bullying situations?' parents replied:

- Communicate with the school
- Have one to one meetings with school
- Discuss how their child is feeling and explore the reason for the behaviour
- Speak about the incidents at home
- Teach right from wrong.

43% of parents who participated in our consultation strongly agreed that the school deal with bullying incidents effectively. They stated that “building positive relationships”, “regular contact with parent/carers” and “letting children talk the situation over” are the main reasons why they strongly agreed with the statement.

Renfrewshire Council state that staff should use their professional judgement to determine at which stage parents/carers should be involved when bullying concerns arise (*Renfrewshire Council Anti-Bullying Policy, 2025*). In Saint Peter’s we use the ‘Getting It Right for Every Child, GIRFEC) wellbeing indicators to help us consider the best interest of the child. Concerns are highlighted to the Head Teacher who has overall responsibility for preventing and responding to bullying behaviour.

## **Monitoring and Recording Bullying**

In Saint Peter’s we record incidents of bullying in the Bullying & Equalities module within SEEMIS Click and Go. This is the main system used to hold pupil information in Scottish schools. Staff should use their professional judgement when deciding to record on the SEEMIS module. Information on incidents of bullying behaviour is collected for management purposes and is monitored by the Senior Management Team in our school.

Anti-bullying record forms are used by SLT when a staff member has reported an incident of bulling. This is stored in a folder in the DHT room and is accessible for all staff working with the child.

Children know that they can report bullying incidents to any of the staff in Saint Peter’s and their concern will be treated discreetly. Parents/carers know that they can contact the school and to raise concerns. In line with Renfrewshire Council’s policy (2025), reports of alleged bullying made by parents/carers/others will be treated as bullying incidents and the school aims to implement any remedial action within 3 working days. The outcome will be communicated to the pupils and their parents/carers.

## **Policy Review and Development**

This policy was updated in 2025 in line with the revised Renfrewshire Council Anti-Bullying Policy in 2025.

This policy will be reviewed no more than 3 years after its implementation date in line with national guidance. It will be reviewed 2028.