

# Our Lady's Preparatory School, Nursery and Day Nursery

## Policy Statement on Bullying and Appropriate Behaviour

Bullying is deemed to be the abuse of power and is therefore unacceptable in any form. It will not be condoned in any circumstances whether it is observed as taking place between pupils or adults who are in contact with pupils.

The overall aim of the School is to develop a pupil's potential to the maximum within a caring environment. This can only take place if a mutually caring relationship exists between all members of the school community. Only then can Our Lady's be seen as a secure environment into which parents can send their children.

1. A priority in the School's approach to bullying is the fact that all members of the school community have a responsibility to become aware of incidents of bullying.
2. A close school-home partnership is necessary and already exists to deal effectively with serious incidents of bullying.
3. It is felt that considerable importance in dealing with the issue of the abuse of power is to approach it in a sensitive but open way.
4. The perpetrator will be approached by a member of staff who will determine the nature of the problem and that appropriate level of response and the course of action that should be taken.
5. If it is an isolated incident of a not too serious nature parents may not be made aware of the issue.
6. By this means the School will retain its autonomy to discipline pupils in their care.
7. However if the member of staff considers the incident to be of a serious nature the Head and Deputy Head will immediately be informed. Now it will be the professional judgement of senior staff to respond and decide a course of action.
8. In the case of a child or group of children parents will be informed of the incident and their co-operation elicited. If the abuse of power results from the actions of an adult, help from outside agencies, such as the constabulary, will be sought.
9. All pupils and parents should be responsible for bringing bullying to the attention of members of the school community.
10. If any pupil experiences any form of bullying or if another pupil witnesses bullying he/she should inform a member of staff at once.

11. It is part of the School's Christian philosophy to use the Religious Education Programme to create a caring and responsible attitude within the School. Other areas of the curriculum may also be adapted to foster a joint sense of community between pupils in all age groups and between pupils and staff.

12. The school is responsible for providing support to the victims of bullying and if possible resolving the situation so there is no re-occurrence.

Ref: *"Bullying don't suffer in silence"* Dfes Created 10-9-07 Reviewed 5-9-09  
Helene Robinson Headmistress