



14th November 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: Anti Bullying Week w/c 14th – 18th November 2016

I am really pleased to be able to inform you of how our students will be fully involved in Anti- Bullying Week. This is a nationwide initiative and events will take place in schools throughout the country during this week. This initiative aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it.

At St. George's we take a very strong stance against all forms of bullying and this topic is always at the forefront of the School's Pastoral Support Programme. Class Teachers, the Inclusion Department, Learning Support Assistants, Mentors and Senior Staff work collectively to ensure that all students, parents and staff are aware of different forms of bullying and the distressing effects and consequences it can have on victims.

Bullying behaviour can be defined as an action, or number of repeated actions, causing harm to people or relationships. This behaviour could be intentional or unintentional and may be on-going. The definition equally encompasses physical or non-physical actions, therefore the harm could be physical, emotional, or both.

The aims and objectives in our school Anti-Bullying Policy are:

To ensure that all students' parents and staff are fully aware of the referral procedures for reporting bullying incidents and the strategies adopted for supporting those involved in these incidents.

To establish a climate in which students who are being bullied, or think another student is being bullied, can speak to an appropriately trained person in the full knowledge that they will be listened to and receive a prompt, appropriate and sensitive response.

To outline the school's strategy for responding to any incidents which are reported.

To create a school community where bullying is recognised as unacceptable and where all students can feel valued, secure and happy.

A Single one off incident is not usually bullying, but if repeated, must be reported and dealt with by the school.

We are aware that bullying can happen anywhere, but we strongly believe that wherever students are, they have the right to be safe. Nobody has the right to make anyone unhappy.

In our school policy we have a clear commitment as a School, that when a young person speaks out about bullying:

- They will be listened to
- Their concerns will be taken seriously
- The matters will be investigated
- **Together we will find a way to tackle it**

- Someone will be there to help and support the young person

The School programme during the Anti-Bullying week 14th November 2016 will include:

- A class assembly focussing on the Anti Bullying Week Campaign
- PHSE lessons considering the different types of bullying and how it affects people
- Circle time activities to examine scenarios of bullying and find solutions
- E-safety lessons to understand and challenge cyber bullying
- Literacy activities linked to books with an anti bullying theme

You can find our recently reviewed [Anti Bullying Policy](#) on our website, which has been shared and discussed with students during our School Council meetings.

Anti-Bullying awareness forms a crucial aspect of the safeguarding and welfare procedures at St George's School. We always appreciate any feedback and comments from parents that help to promote a joint partnership in helping to tackle this issue. We are very fortunate at St George's School that incidents are rarely reported, but when they are, we are able to respond to matters very quickly, together with the support of parents.

I would particularly like to draw your attention your child's use of Social Media and would ask for your support in monitoring your son/daughters usage of Social Media, networking sites and internet based forums. There has been a national growth in the number of incidents relating to bullying online with many of the incidents occurring outside of school hours. Excellent advice is available on the following website:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

BT'S volunteers will be at school to deliver 'The Right Click: Internet Safety Matters' workshop on: Thursday 1st December 2016 at 4pm. The workshop will last around one hour. The workshop brings together UNICEF UK's child rights expertise with BT's technological know-how around internet safety to give you the information you and your child need to navigate the risks and embrace the benefits technology brings. If you would like to attend, please complete the form attached to the letter sent out on 1st November (spare copies can be obtained from Lower School Reception).

I would like to thank you for your continued help and support. If you have any queries questions regarding the Anti-Bullying policy or concerns that your child is being bullied, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Shaw
Head of Lower School