

9th November 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians



St George's
School Edgbaston

RE: Anti Bullying Week w/c 12th – 16th November 2018

Anti-Bullying Week is a nationwide initiative and events will take place in schools throughout the country next 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.

Lower School will be participating in Anti-Bullying Week, when we will promote difference and equality in school with the tagline 'Choose Respect'. The idea has been developed following a consultation with children, teachers and members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, where it emerged that a top priority was showing that bullying is a behaviour choice, and that children and young people can set a positive example by opting to respect each other at school, in their homes and communities, and online.

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 to 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 12th November 2018 will include:

- Class and whole school assemblies focussing on the Anti Bullying Week Campaign 'Choose Respect'
- PHSE lessons considering respect, as well as different types of bullying and how it affects people

- Circle time and drama activities to examine scenarios of disrespect and/or bullying and find solutions
- E-safety lessons to understand and challenge cyber bullying
- Literacy activities linked to books with respect, equality and anti-bullying themes

All through this week, we will celebrate our positive relationships and school ethos at St George's, and learn about how to manage difficult situations and what to do if you feel you are being bullied.

We are linking this in with our learning of the United Nations Convention of Children's Rights, particularly:

Article 2: You have the right to protection against discrimination.

Article 14: You have the right to think and believe what you choose and also to practise your religion, as long as you are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights

Article 16: You have the right to privacy

Article 19: You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

Article 23: Children with a disability have the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible independence, and to play an active part in the community

Article 30: You have the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of your family

Article 31: You have the right to relax and play

You can find both our recently reviewed [Anti Bullying Policy](#) and our [Equality and Diversity Policy](#) on our website, which have been shared and discussed with students during assemblies and PSHE lessons. Also attached is a copy of the DFE's Advice for parents and carers on cyberbullying; it provides advice and information about how they can protect their child from cyberbullying and how to tackle it if it happens.

Equality and 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 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

