

## 6.1 Anti-Bullying Policy

### Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at St Johns Preschool. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

### What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person.

Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

A child who is bullying has reached a stage of cognitive development where he or she is able to plan to carry out a premeditated intent to cause distress to another.

Bullying generally can occur in children five years old and over.

Bullying can be:

- **Emotional** – being unfriendly, not letting a child join in the group
- **Physical** – pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Racist** – racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual** – unwanted physical contact
- **Verbal** – name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- **Cyber** – all areas of internet, such as email & internet chat room misuse mobile threats by text messaging

### Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Children who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving. St Johns Preschool has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

### Objectives of this Policy

- All committee, staff, children and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- All committee and staff should know what the St Johns Preschool policy is on bullying, and follow it when bullying is reported.
- All children and parents should know what the St Johns Preschool policy is on bullying, and what they should do if bullying arises.
- As a Preschool take bullying seriously. Children and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- We do not label children who bully as “bullies”.

### Signs and Symptoms

- A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied.
- Is unwilling to go to Preschool (school phobic)
- Becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- Doesn't want to go on a school bus

- Begs to be driven to school
- Begins to truant
- Starts stammering
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above
- Attempts suicide or threatens or runs away
- Has possessions that are damaged or goes missing
- Asks for money or starts stealing (to pay bully)
- Starts bullying others
- Comes home with clothes torn or damaged

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated

#### Procedures

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. In cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff
3. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly
5. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour
6. If necessary police may be informed

#### Outcomes

1. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise. Other consequences may take place.
2. In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered
3. If possible, the children will be reconciled
4. After the incident / incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

#### Prevention

We will use our Positive Behaviour Policy and Procedure.

Date to be reviewed – on or before end March 2023