

# **United Against Bullying School Case Study: Dealing with a case of bullying which took place during half-term**

## **How St Mary's Catholic Primary School dealt with a case of bullying which took place during half-term using their processes**

### **Context of our anti-bullying work**

A child came to the Pastoral Manager to report that another child in the class had been sending her unkind and threatening messages daily over the half-term break. The child stated that her parents had seen the messages and had encouraged her to inform the school.

### **What we hoped to achieve**

- To resolve the incident as quickly as possible.
- To reassure the child that the incident was not her fault in any way.
- To support the perpetrator and aid them to be able to take responsibility and accountability.
- To give support to the child being bullied in order for them to feel safe in school.

### **The action we took**

- Whilst the Pastoral Manager gathered the child's voice, along with a statement of what had happened, the Headteacher, contacted the child's parents to get their views and wrote it on the bullying incident form and updated CPOMS.
- When all the information was gathered, the head teacher spoke with the perpetrator, who after denying their involvement, owned up to sending the messages.
- The perpetrator's parents were asked to come to school for a meeting.
- The parents of the perpetrator were supportive and agreed to the consequences put in place by the school, they also gave the child consequences at home.
- The child wrote an apology letter at home with their family for the child they had bullied.
- As part of the plan, the Pastoral Manager worked on the consequences of bullying, for 3 sessions, during these sessions, it was identified that the child was unhappy with low confidence and needed further work to express their feelings and identify solutions to worries and problems.
- The child, who had been bullied, had a regular check-in with the class teacher and Pastoral Manager.
- The situation was monitored, and follow-up calls were made to the families.
- No further incidents were reported.

### **Impact and outcomes of the work**

- The bullying response was quick with the children spoken with and parents being informed within the first hour of the incident reported.
- With the perpetrator's parents being supportive of school, spending time with their child discussing the incident, reinforcing positive ways to communicate, and putting sanctions in place, was impactful in the positive outcome of the situation.
- The children eventually started to play together without incident.

### **What we have learned**

We have learned that the process school has in place is strong, however, the reactions and supportiveness of parents are potentially crucial for a positive outcome.

Consequences to be applied on a case-to-case basis, each incident must be judged individually.