

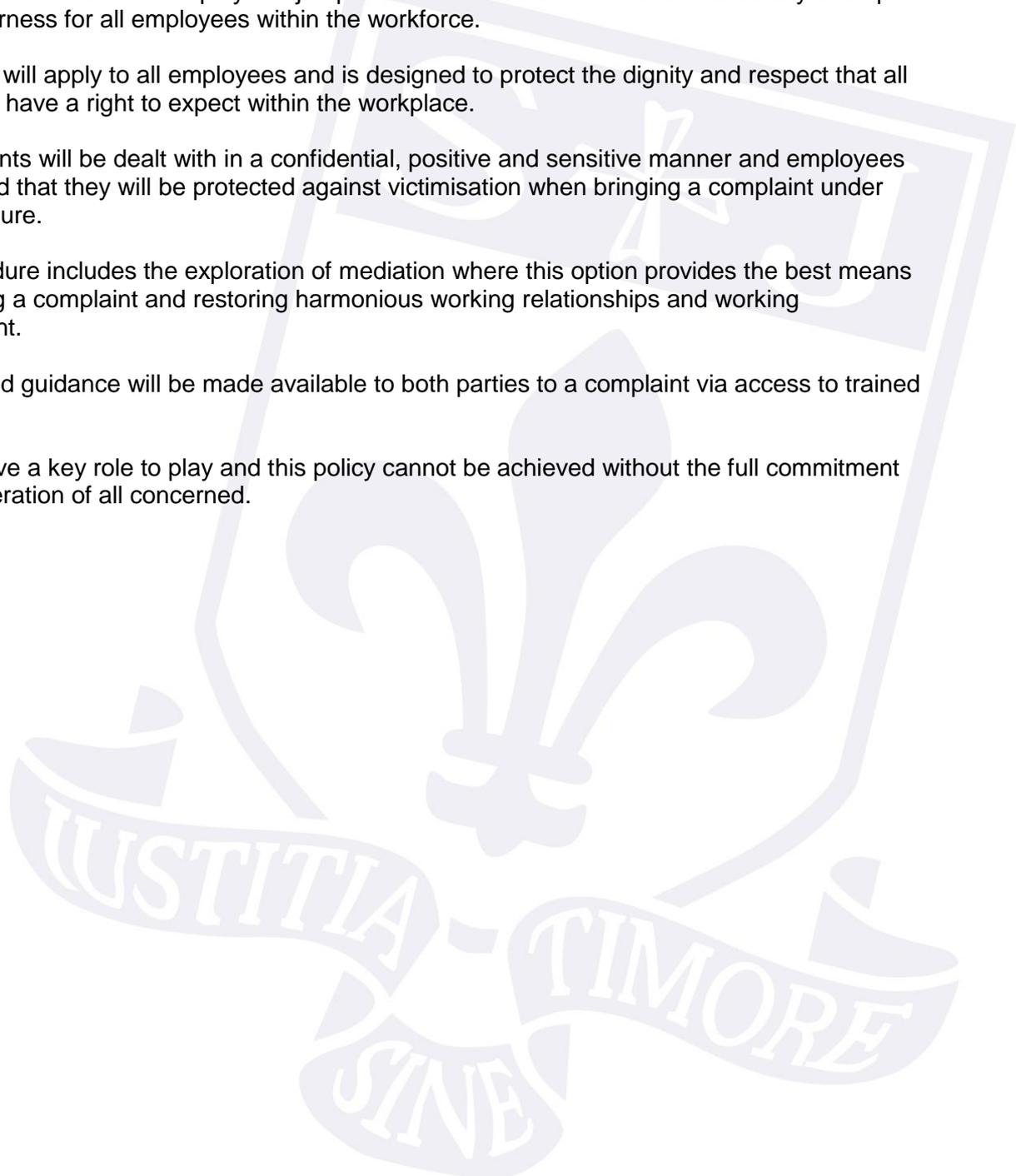
# St. Joseph's Roman Catholic High School



## Anti-Harassment Policy

## Policy Statement

- 1.1 The Governing Body of St Joseph's R C High School and Sports College takes seriously the LEA's policy on Valuing Diversity and will strive to ensure that its workforce reflects local communities, taking into account its denominational status.
- 1.2 Harassment and Discrimination (whether direct or indirect by nature), act as barriers to achieving this goal and will not be tolerated by Governors.
- 1.3 Harassment can take many forms, may be directed at an individual or groups or individuals. It is insulting and demeaning to the recipient(s), and as such is unacceptable behaviour at work and is a matter of misconduct.
- 1.4 Harassment can occur on a variety of grounds. It can be unlawful behaviour contrary to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975; the Race Relations Act 1976; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 or the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Public Interest Disclosure Act. Harassment is a serious issue which lowers morale, affects personal dignity and interferes with employees' job performance. Harassment undermines any attempt to achieve fairness for all employees within the workforce.
- 1.5 This policy will apply to all employees and is designed to protect the dignity and respect that all employees have a right to expect within the workplace.
- 1.6 All complaints will be dealt with in a confidential, positive and sensitive manner and employees are assured that they will be protected against victimisation when bringing a complaint under this procedure.
- 1.7 The procedure includes the exploration of mediation where this option provides the best means of resolving a complaint and restoring harmonious working relationships and working environment.
- 1.8 Support and guidance will be made available to both parties to a complaint via access to trained personnel.
- 1.9 All staff have a key role to play and this policy cannot be achieved without the full commitment and co-operation of all concerned.



## Definition

- 2.1 Harassment can be defined as any conduct which is unwanted by the recipient(s) and which adversely affects their dignity and well being or their ability to carry out their duties.
- 2.2 Harassment can be on the grounds of any personal characteristic e.g. age or sexual orientation, and may amount to unlawful discrimination when it is on grounds of race, gender, disability, religion or appearance. Bullying is a form of harassment.
- 2.3 The definitions make it clear that the essential characteristics of harassment is that it is **unwanted** by the **recipient**. It is the **impact** of the conduct and not the **intent** of the alleged harasser that determines whether harassment has occurred.
- 2.4 Examples of harassment can be found in Appendix 1.

What can you do if you feel that you have been or are being harassed and you want the harassment to stop?

There are two stages to the policy:

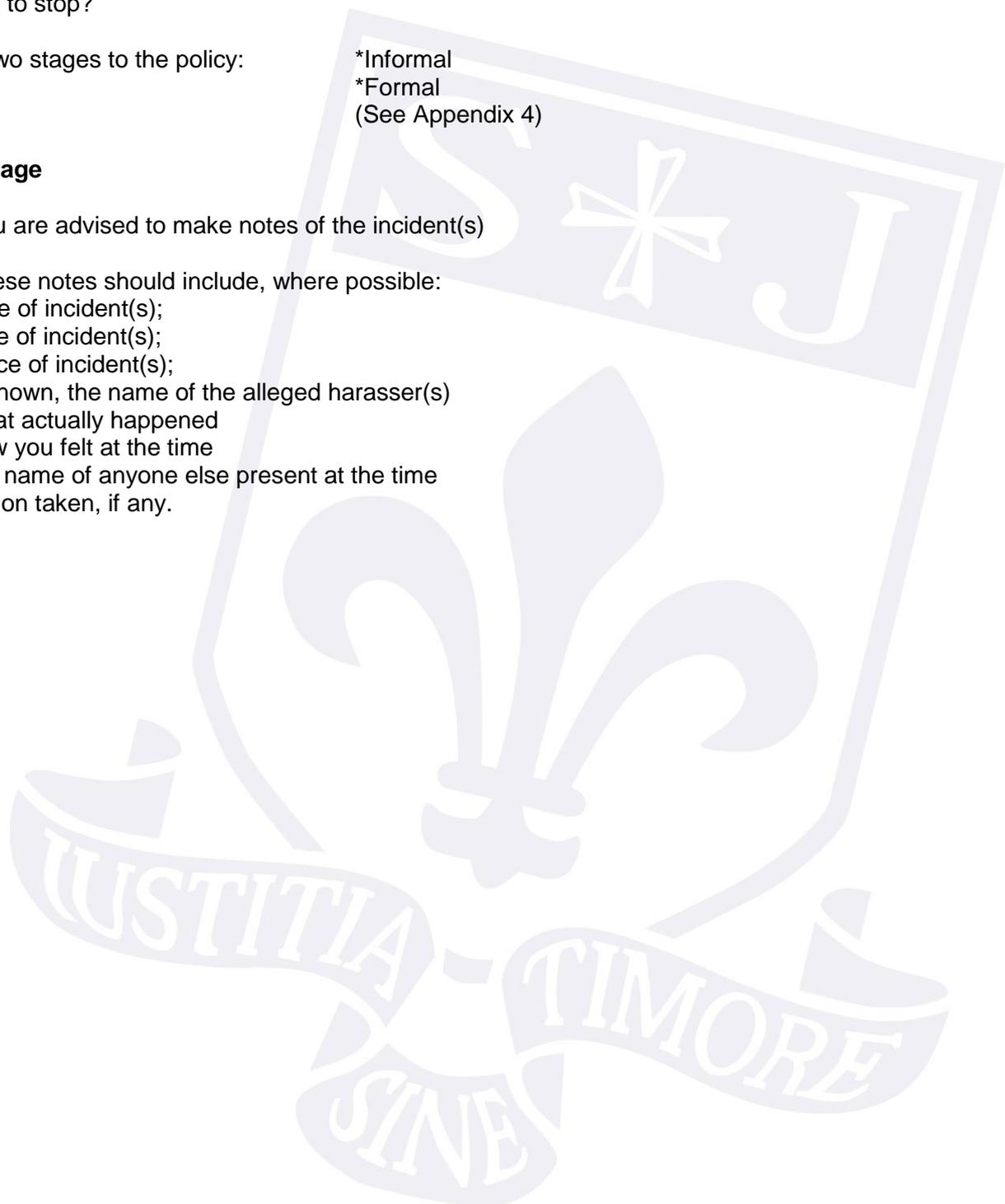
- \*Informal
- \*Formal  
(See Appendix 4)

## Informal Stage

- 3.1 You are advised to make notes of the incident(s)

These notes should include, where possible:

- date of incident(s);
- time of incident(s);
- place of incident(s);
- If known, the name of the alleged harasser(s)
- what actually happened
- how you felt at the time
- the name of anyone else present at the time
- action taken, if any.



3.2 If you feel able to, speak to the alleged harasser and ask them to stop.

If you feel unable to speak to the alleged harasser there are a number of people you can approach, in confidence, for example:  
an Harassment Support Governor,  
the Head Teacher or member of the Senior Management Team,  
your trade union representative,  
your departmental Personnel Officer.

They will support you in making a written record of what has happened and a mediation approach will be recommended in most cases. The written record will include an agreement to monitor the situation and an agreed date to review progress.

3.3 If you feel you are experiencing harassment which is not personally directed at you individually, (e.g. generalised sexist/racist language), you can raise the matter with the Head Teacher or Harassment Support Governor or trade union representative.

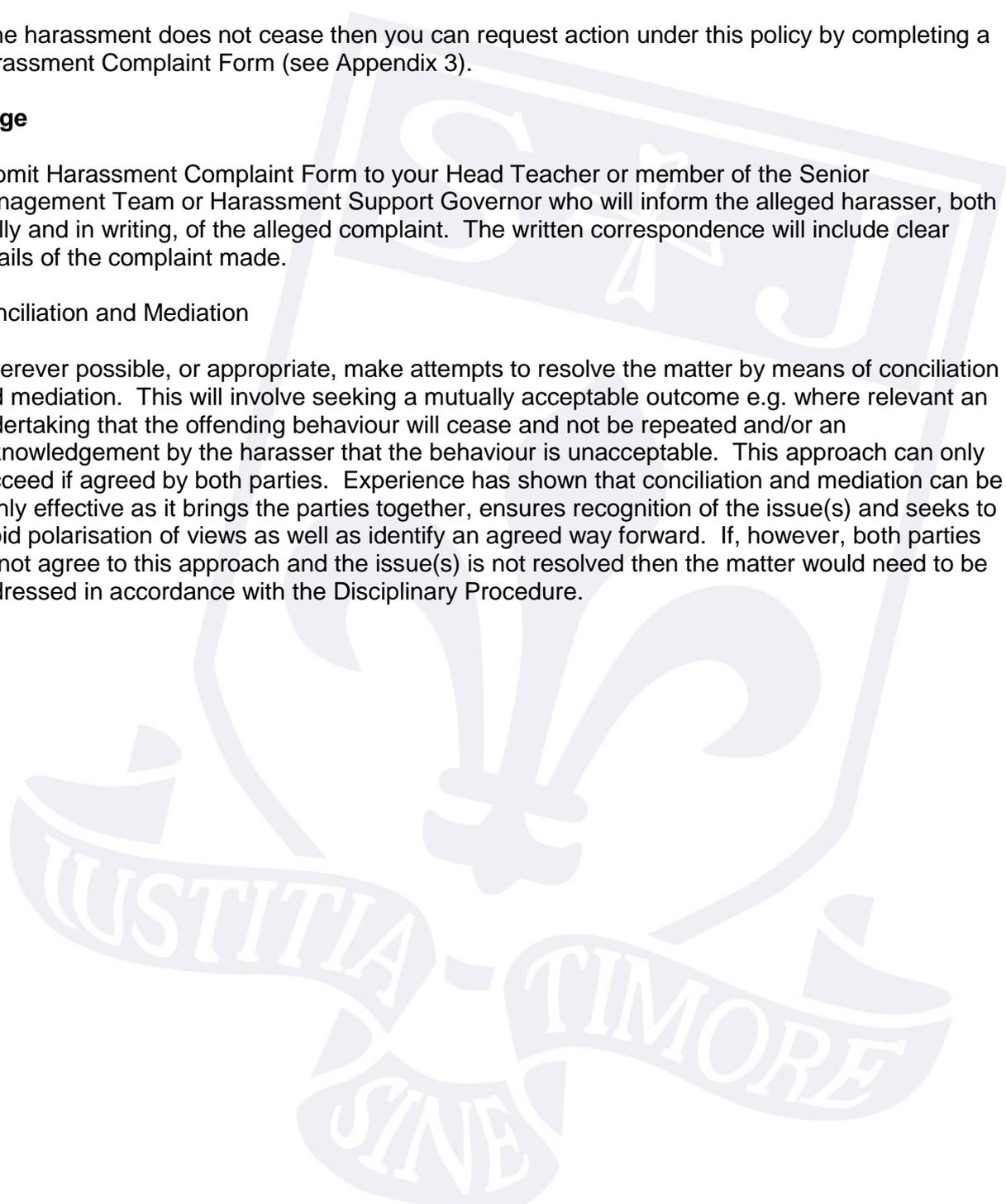
3.4 If the harassment does not cease then you can request action under this policy by completing a Harassment Complaint Form (see Appendix 3).

### **Formal Stage**

4.1 Submit Harassment Complaint Form to your Head Teacher or member of the Senior Management Team or Harassment Support Governor who will inform the alleged harasser, both orally and in writing, of the alleged complaint. The written correspondence will include clear details of the complaint made.

#### **Conciliation and Mediation**

Wherever possible, or appropriate, make attempts to resolve the matter by means of conciliation and mediation. This will involve seeking a mutually acceptable outcome e.g. where relevant an undertaking that the offending behaviour will cease and not be repeated and/or an acknowledgement by the harasser that the behaviour is unacceptable. This approach can only succeed if agreed by both parties. Experience has shown that conciliation and mediation can be highly effective as it brings the parties together, ensures recognition of the issue(s) and seeks to avoid polarisation of views as well as identify an agreed way forward. If, however, both parties do not agree to this approach and the issue(s) is not resolved then the matter would need to be addressed in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure.



## Disciplinary Procedure

It is recognised there may be incident(s) which are of such a serious nature that it will be necessary for the School's Disciplinary Procedure to be invoked immediately without any recourse or reference to mediation.

arrange for an investigation to be conducted in accordance with the School's Disciplinary Procedure. An Investigatory Panel will, wherever reasonably practicable, consider the complaint within 10 working days of receiving it. The Investigatory Panel will include a Governor, the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Management Team and a third party nominated by the Governors with specific expertise in the area of the complainant. The investigation will be based on the information contained in the harassment complaint form and its purpose will be to gather evidence concerning the alleged incident(s). At an investigatory interview the complainant, alleged harasser, or any witnesses can be supported by a Trade Union representative or friend.

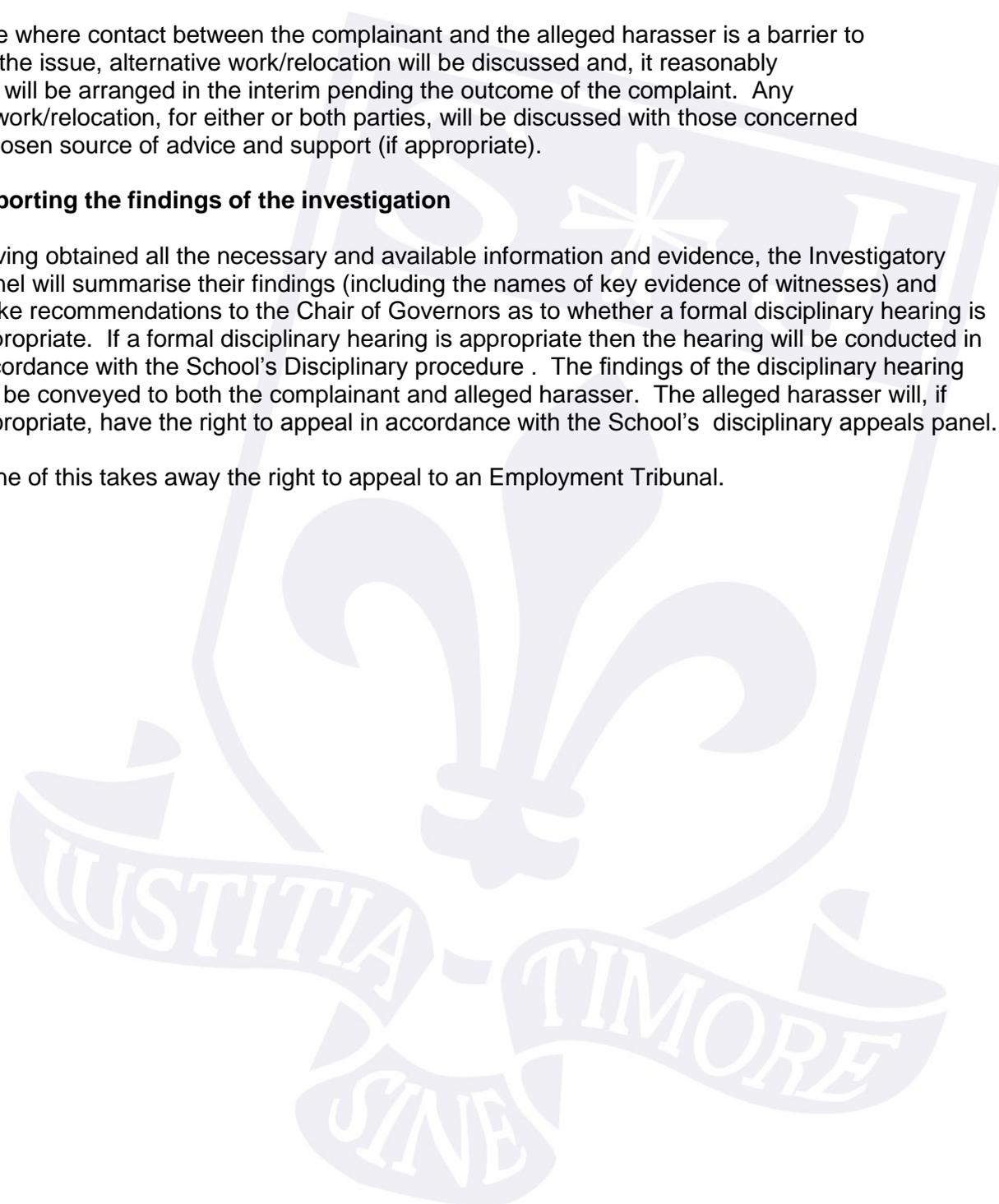
### Please note

At any stage where contact between the complainant and the alleged harasser is a barrier to addressing the issue, alternative work/relocation will be discussed and, if reasonably practicable, will be arranged in the interim pending the outcome of the complaint. Any alternative work/relocation, for either or both parties, will be discussed with those concerned and their chosen source of advice and support (if appropriate).

#### 4.2 Reporting the findings of the investigation

Having obtained all the necessary and available information and evidence, the Investigatory Panel will summarise their findings (including the names of key evidence of witnesses) and make recommendations to the Chair of Governors as to whether a formal disciplinary hearing is appropriate. If a formal disciplinary hearing is appropriate then the hearing will be conducted in accordance with the School's Disciplinary procedure. The findings of the disciplinary hearing will be conveyed to both the complainant and alleged harasser. The alleged harasser will, if appropriate, have the right to appeal in accordance with the School's disciplinary appeals panel.

None of this takes away the right to appeal to an Employment Tribunal.



## Appendix 1

### Examples of Harassment

(Please note this is not an exhaustive list)

#### A Sexual Harassment

Can be defined as *'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of men and women at work'*.<sup>\*</sup> It typically affects a person's ability to do their work.

Examples of this could be:

unnecessary touching, patting, pinching or brushing against a person's body;  
physical assault;  
demands for sexual favours, propositions or pressure for sexual activity;  
continued unwelcome invitation to social activity outside the workplace;  
leering, rude gestures, whistling, catcalls;  
pornographic pin-ups or other offensive visual material;  
unwanted personal comments about appearance, bodysize, clothes etc;  
suggestive remarks and innuendoes;  
other verbal abuse.

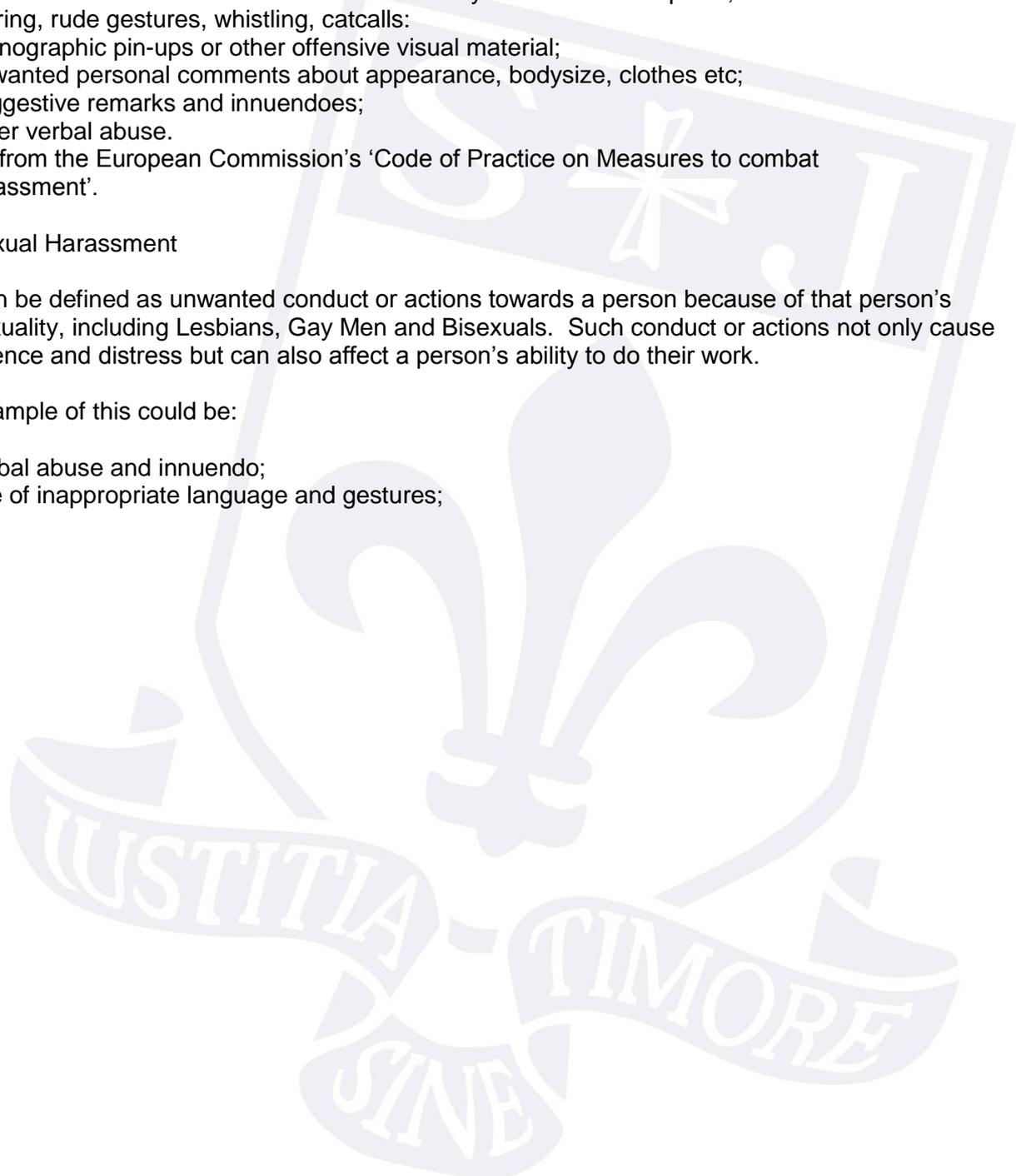
<sup>\*</sup> Extracted from the European Commission's 'Code of Practice on Measures to combat Sexual Harassment'.

#### B Sexual Harassment

Can be defined as unwanted conduct or actions towards a person because of that person's sexuality, including Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals. Such conduct or actions not only cause offence and distress but can also affect a person's ability to do their work.

Example of this could be:

verbal abuse and innuendo;  
use of inappropriate language and gestures;



**homophobic comments etc which may imply the Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals “can be cured” or “haven’t met the right partner of the opposite sex yet”;**

suggestions, comments, etc which may imply that Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals are somehow “second class” i.e. that Gay Men aren’t real or proper men;

make judgements about a persons character or lifestyle based on inappropriate stereotypes of Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals;

threatening to make public (outing) the fact that a colleague is lesbian, gay or bisexual;

excluding lesbian, gay or bisexual colleagues from workplace, socialisation e.g. office talk, social events;

preventing lesbian, gay or bisexual employees access to peer support and networking.

## **C** Racial Harassment

**Can be defined as ‘racially motivated actions and behaviour which are directed at people because of their race, colour, ethnic or national origins and which are unwanted and/or cause offence and distress’.**

Examples of this could include:

racist ‘jokes’;

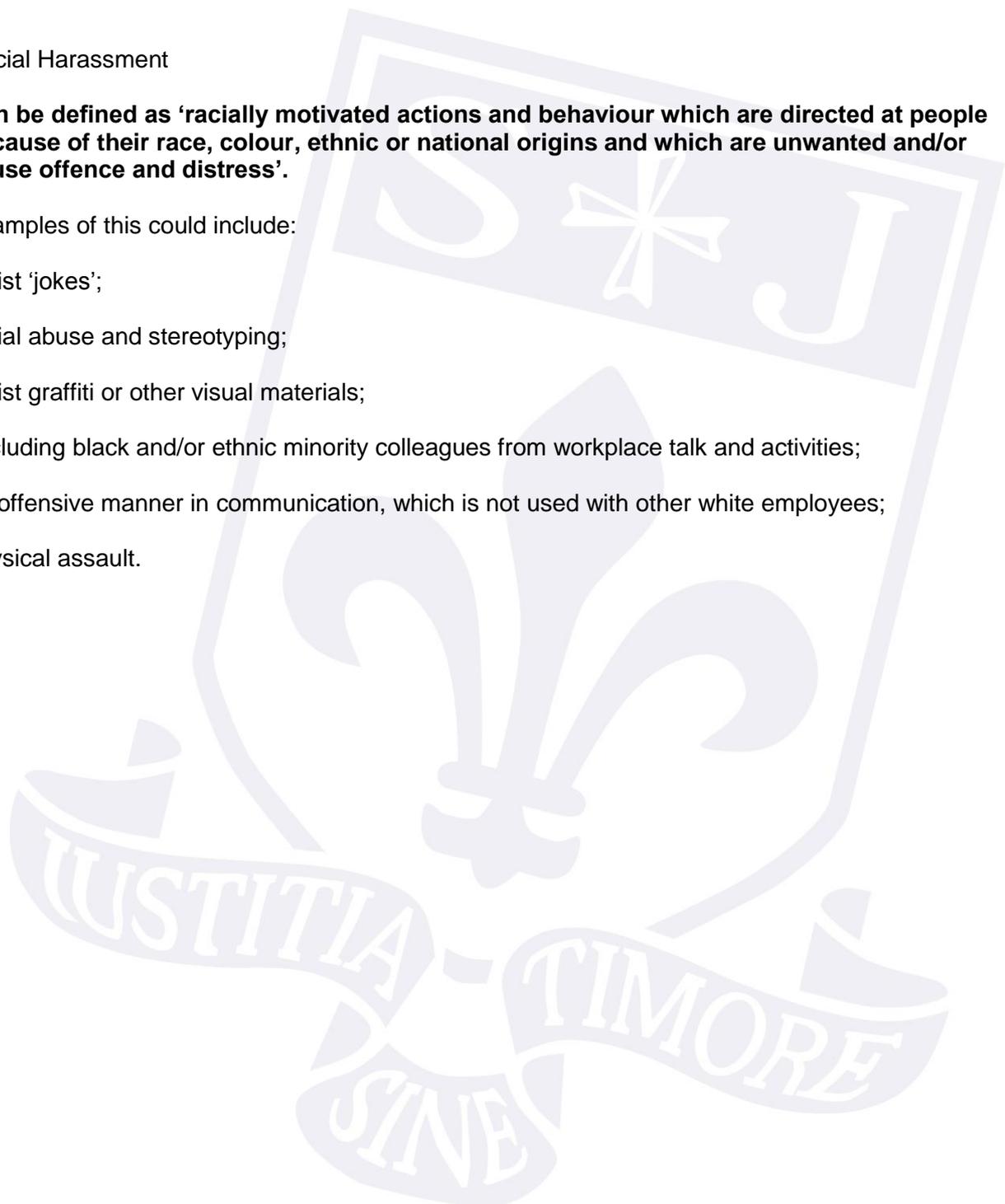
racial abuse and stereotyping;

racist graffiti or other visual materials;

excluding black and/or ethnic minority colleagues from workplace talk and activities;

an offensive manner in communication, which is not used with other white employees;

physical assault.



## D Harassment of People with Disabilities

**Can be defined as ‘less favourable treatment of a person because of their substantial and long term physical or mental impairment which affects their ability to carry out normal day to day activities’.**

Examples of this could include:

‘jokes’ about disabled people;

unwanted or patronising comments which repeatedly draw attention to the employee’s impairment, to any employment aids or equipment they may use.

stereotyping and/or commenting about disabled people’s abilities;

persistently patronising behaviour;

excluding a disabled colleague from workplace talk and activities.

## E Age Harassment

Can include:

displaying misconceptions and prejudices about age rather than judging solely on talent and skills;

placing unjustifiable age related criteria on employment practices;

providing training on the basis of age rather than need;

stereotyping youth as inexperienced for promotion;

side-stepping people or excluding people based on the assumption that they are too old to take part or be promoted.

## F Religious Harassment

Can include:

behaviour which fails to tolerate or acknowledge the rights or needs of people with different beliefs and practices;

purposely mocking people who respect/practice their religion

making fun of people because of their religious beliefs;

misusing or defacing a person’s religious artefacts.

## G Bullying

Can be defined as offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting or humiliating behaviour, and/or abuse of power or authority which attempts to undermine an individual or group of employees and which may cause them to suffer stress.

Bullying can be the outcome or form of harassment detailed above.

Examples of this could include:

demonstrating excluding behaviour;  
constantly using foul language and/or aggressive language;  
persistently picking on or ridiculing a person or persons in public or private;  
purposely giving a variety of mixed messages to disrupt a team's functioning;  
singling out person(s), treating them less favourably than the rest of the group.

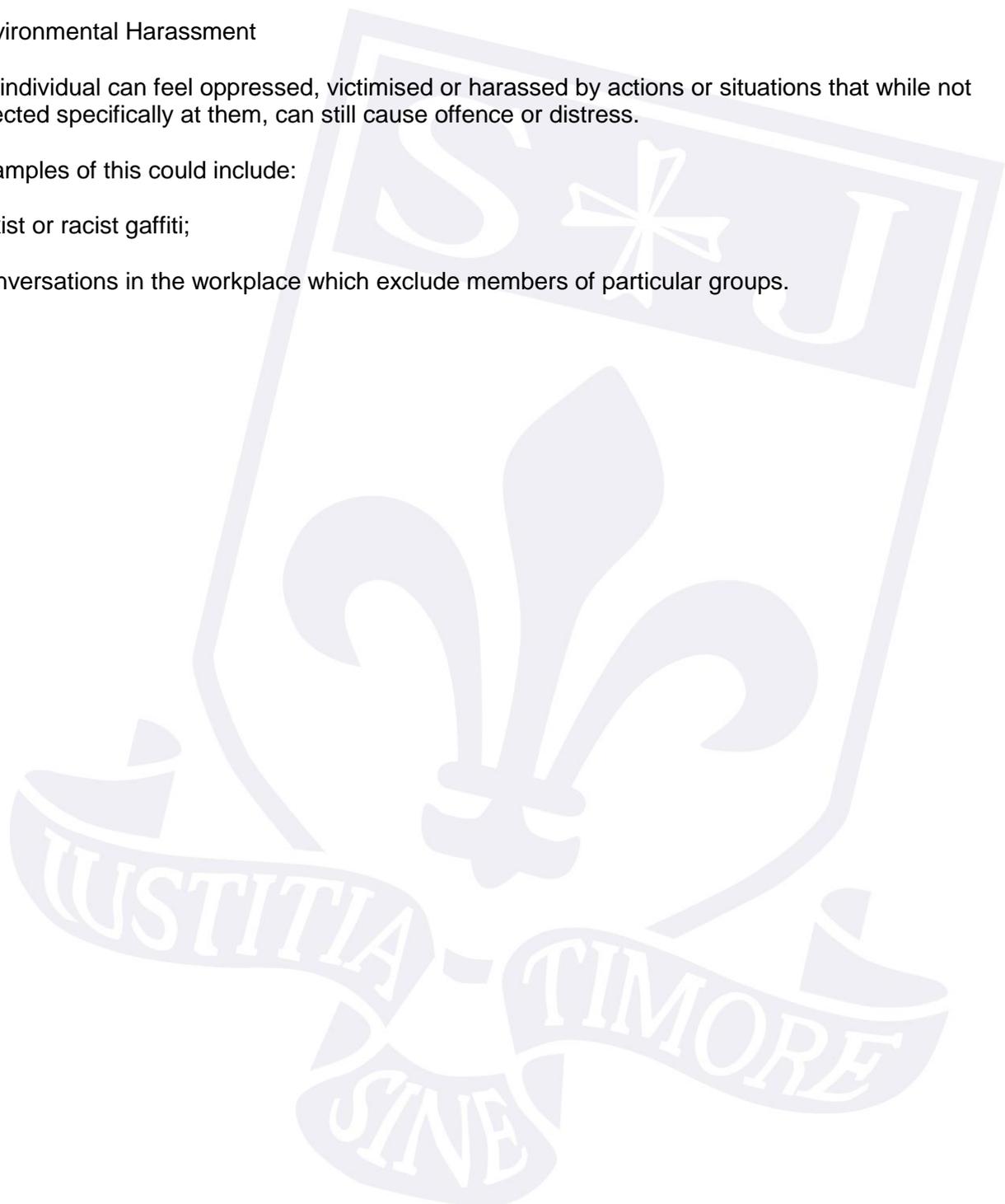
## H Environmental Harassment

An individual can feel oppressed, victimised or harassed by actions or situations that while not directed specifically at them, can still cause offence or distress.

Examples of this could include:

sexist or racist gaffiti;

Conversations in the workplace which exclude members of particular groups.



## Appendix 2

### Responsibilities under the Harassment Policy

The Governors take all complaints of harassment seriously and, therefore, have a responsibility to investigate any complaints with sensitivity and confidentiality, using established procedures.

The Governing Body will also ensure all its employees and members are made aware of existing and revised policies and procedures by providing appropriate training of the Governing Body for all those involved in the administration and application of this procedure.

The Governing Body will ensure recommendations are acted upon and followed through.

Harassment on the grounds of sex, race and disability are illegal and are in breach of the Public Order Act 1994 and may be in breach of the Sex Discrimination Acts 1975, The Race Relations Acts 1976, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Protection From Harassment Act 1997.

### Line Managers

Line managers have a responsibility to provide a safe and non-threatening work environment for their employees. This will be achieved by:

Introducing and promoting the anti-Harassment Policy.

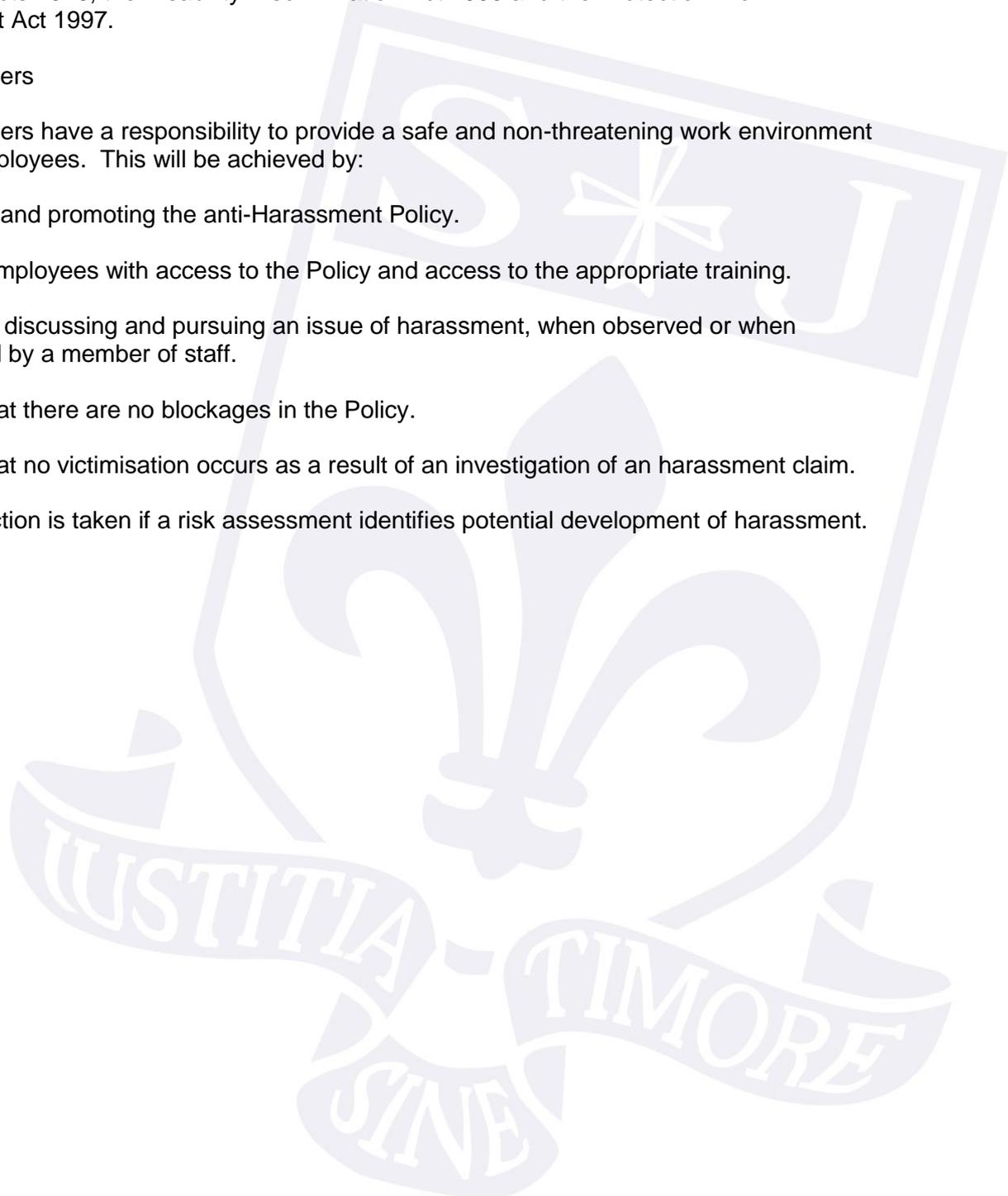
Providing employees with access to the Policy and access to the appropriate training.

Supporting, discussing and pursuing an issue of harassment, when observed or when approached by a member of staff.

Ensuring that there are no blockages in the Policy.

Ensuring that no victimisation occurs as a result of an investigation of an harassment claim.

Ensuring action is taken if a risk assessment identifies potential development of harassment.



## Harassment Support Governors

Harassment Support Governors have undergone training to develop their listening, supporting and befriending skills.

A Harassment Support Governor will listen and support employees and encourage them to talk about their experiences and to explore different options. Their service is available to both complainants and alleged harassers.

Their service is completely confidential and Harassment Support Governors will not act as advocates, nor can they give evidence, or be interviewed should proceedings become formal.





How do you think the harassment could be stopped?

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Are you prepared to consider conciliation and mediation to resolve the harassment?

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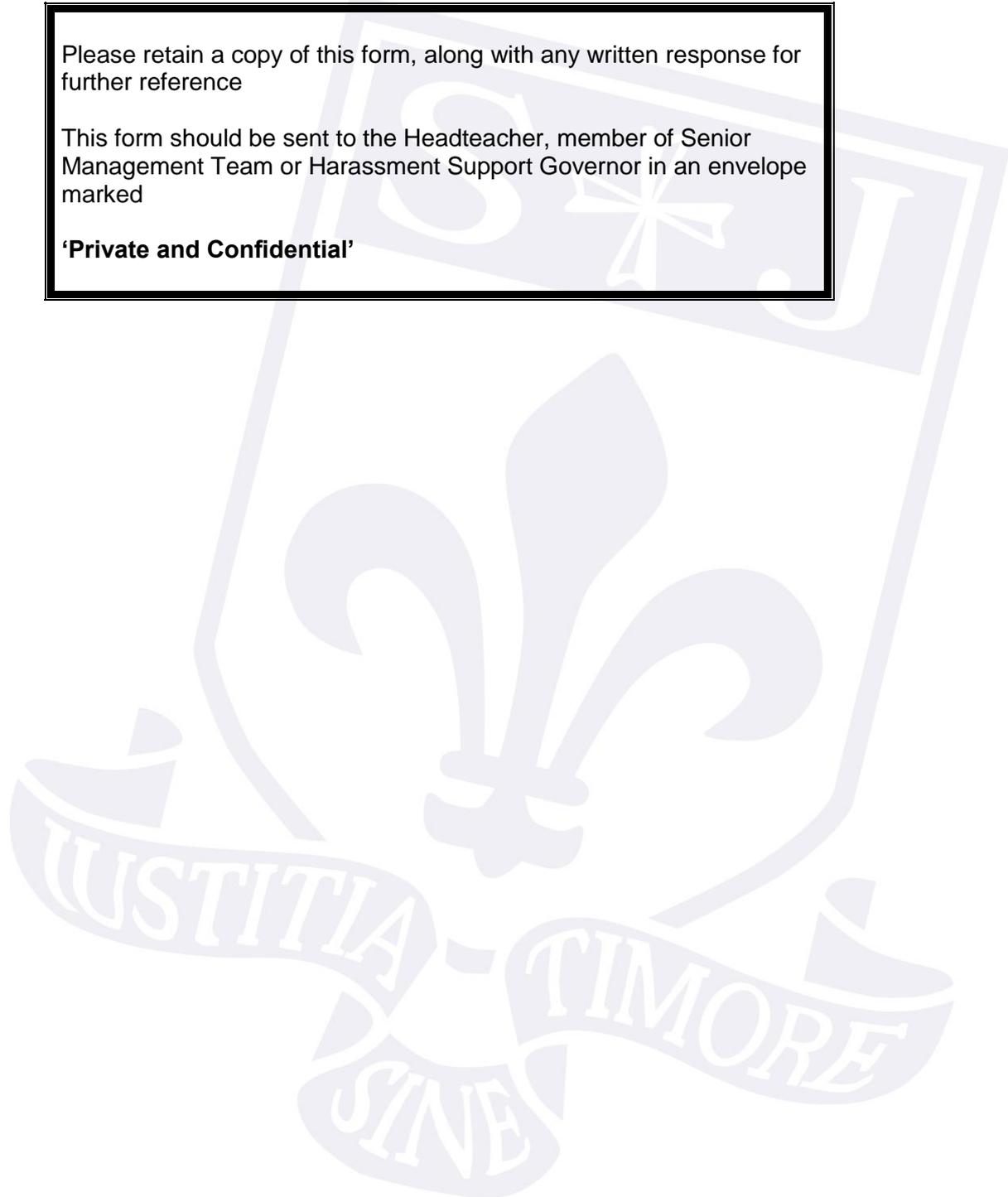
Is there any other relevant information you wish to add?

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.....  
.....

Please retain a copy of this form, along with any written response for further reference

This form should be sent to the Headteacher, member of Senior Management Team or Harassment Support Governor in an envelope marked

**'Private and Confidential'**



Appendix 4  
**St Joseph's R C High School and Sports College**  
**Anti-Harassment Policy**  
 Informal Stage

Harassment experienced and note(s) of incident(s) made



Alleged harasser asked to stop of the employee raises the issue with a Harassment Support Governor, the Headteacher or Members of the SMT, Trade Union Representative or Departmental Personnel Officer



Written record made of incident(s)



Mediation recommended -----



Mediation successful and situation monitored

Harassment ceases

-----→ Mediation unsuccessful



**Formal Stage**

Harassment continues



Harassment Complaint Form Completed



Harassment Complaint Form acknowledged by Headteacher, member of SMT or Harassment Support Governor within two working days



-----Alleged harasser notified orally and in writing of the alleged complaint.



Conciliation and Mediation recommended and accepted by the parties involved.



Matter resolved/offending behaviour ceases/acknowledgement by the alleged harasser that the behaviour is unacceptable.



Situation Monitored

Mediation not accepted as a ←----- way forward or the incident is so serious mediation is not appropriate



Formal investigation under the School's Disciplinary Procedure commences.



Investigatory Panel make recommendations to the Chair of Governors



Disciplinary Hearing in accordance with the Authority's Disciplinary Procedure convened if appropriate.



Outcome of the Disciplinary Hearing convened to both the complainant and the alleged harasser.



If appropriate the alleged harasser will have the right of appeal in accordance with the School's Disciplinary Appeals Panel

