



DUNBOYNE JUNIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and the Code of Behaviour Guidelines issued by the NEWB, the Board of Management of Dunboyne Junior Primary School (hereafter known as the school) has adopted the following Anti-Bullying policy within the framework of the school's overall Code of Good Behaviour. This policy fully complies with the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools, which were published in September 2013. The Board of Management recognises the very serious nature of bullying and the negative impact that it can have on the lives of pupils and is therefore fully committed to following key principles of best practice in preventing and tackling bullying behaviour.

Rationale

This policy is in place in order to ensure that pupils have the right to learn in a supportive caring and safe environment, without the fear of being bullied. This School has a clear policy on the promotion of respect for everyone. All staff and pupils are aware that bullying is not acceptable behaviour. This policy promotes this belief and provides clear strategies for teachers, pupils and parents to deal with bullying in a firm, fair, clear, prompt and positive manner.

Aims

This policy aims:

- To raise awareness of bullying as a form of unacceptable behaviour with school management, teachers, all staff, pupils, parents/guardians.
- To create a school ethos which encourages children to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour.
- To ensure comprehensive supervision and monitoring measures through which all areas of school activity are kept under observation.
- To develop procedures for noting, investigating and dealing with incidents of bullying behaviour.
- To implement a programme of support for those affected by bullying behaviour and for those involved in bullying behaviour.
- To work with appropriate agencies in countering all forms of bullying and anti-bullying behaviour.
- To increase cooperation between home and school regarding the issue of bullying.

- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self – discipline in pupils based on respect among all members of the school community.
- To share the task with parents/guardians of equipping pupils with the necessary skills to deal with others.

Definition of Bullying: Dept. of Education and Science guidelines define bullying as ... *repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, which should not be condoned, can scarcely be described as bullying. However, when the behaviour is systematic and ongoing it is bullying and any pupil can be a victim or a perpetrator of bullying. Why do pupils bully? It is generally accepted that bullying is a learned behaviour. Pupils who bully tend to display aggressive attitudes combined with a low level of self-esteem. Children become bullies for many reasons;*

Some of these are:

- They feel insecure and inadequate
- They may be bullied by parents or older children at home
- They may find it difficult to socialise with their peers and so pick on younger more vulnerable children
- They may feel they must succeed at all costs.
- They may be very spoilt and go totally unchallenged at home
- They may be constantly humiliated by others and in turn do this to other children
- They may be physically, sexually or emotionally abused themselves
- Some children become involved in bullying by acting as bystanders or supporters of abully.

Bullying can take place anywhere:

- In school, in class, in the playground, corridors, toilets
- On the way to or from school
- At activities outside of school
- On the road/street/in the home etc.

NOTE: factors having their origins in differences or conflicts between parties outside the school may contribute to increased incidents of bullying within the school.

Types of Bullying

A. Pupil Behaviour:

Physical Aggression: This includes pushing, shoving and punching, kicking, poking and tripping people up. It may also take the form of severe physical assault. While children commonly engage in ‘mess fights’ they can often be used as a disguise for physical harassment or inflicting pain.

Damage to Property: Personal property can be the focus of attention for the bully; this may result in damage to clothing, school books and other learning material or interference with a pupil's locker or bicycle. The contents of school bags and pencilcases may be scattered on the floor. Items of personal property may be defaced, broken, stolen or hidden.

Extortion: Demands for money may be made, often accompanied by threats (sometimes carried out) in the event of the victim not promptly "paying up". Victims' lunches may be taken. Victims may also be forced into theft of property for delivery to the bully. Sometimes this tactic is used with the sole purpose of incriminating the victim.

Intimidation: Some bullying behaviour takes the form of intimidation: it is based on the use of very aggressive body language with the voice being used as a weapon. Particularly upsetting to victims can be the so-called 'look' – a facial expression that conveys aggression and/or dislike

Abusive Telephone Calls: The abusive anonymous telephone call is a form of verbal intimidation or bullying. The anonymous phone call is very prevalent where teachers are the victims of bullying.

Isolation: This form of bullying behaviour, a certain person is deliberately isolated, excluded or ignored by some or all, of the class group. The person engaged in bullying behaviour usually initiates this practice. It may be accompanied by writing insulting remarks about the victim on blackboards or in public places, by passing around notes about or drawings of the victim or by whispering insults about them loud enough to be heard.

Name-calling: Persistent name-calling directed at the same individual(s), which hurts, insults or humiliates should be regarded as a form of bullying behaviour; most name-calling of this type refers to physical appearance, e.g. 'big ears', size, clothes worn, colour or ethnic origin. Accent or distinctive voice characteristics may attract negative attention. Academic ability can also provoke name-calling. This tends to operate at two extremes: first, there are those who are singled out for attention because they are perceived to be slow or weak, academically. These pupils are often referred to as 'dummies', 'dopes' or 'donkeys'. At the other extreme are those who, because they are perceived as high achievers, are labelled 'swots', 'brain-boxes', 'licks' 'teachers' pets' etc.

Slagging: This behaviour usually refers to the good-natured banter, which goes on as part of the normal social interchange between people. However, when this slagging extends to very personal remarks aimed again and again at the one individual about appearance, clothing, personal hygiene or involves references of an uncomplimentary nature to members of one's family, particularly if couched in sexual innuendo, then it assumes the form of bullying. It may also take the form of suggestive remarks about a pupil's sexual orientation.

Cyberbullying -through social media platforms or any online offensive behaviour directed at another person.

Types of Behaviour Involved in Cyber Bullying

These guidelines provide assistance in identifying and describing the types of behaviour involved in cyber bullying. The means of cyber bullying are constantly changing, and the following list of types of bullying behaviour can be expanded in light of the experience of the school community:

Hate Sites

- Encouraging other people to join the bullying by publishing someone's personal details or linking to their social network page.
- Abusive messages.
- Transmitting abusive and/or threatening messages.

- Chat rooms and discussion forums.
- Posting cruel and/or or abusive comments about someone.

Mobile Phones

- Sending humiliating and abusive video messages or photographic images messages.
- Making silent or abusive phone calls.
- Sending abusive text messages.
- Interactive gaming.
- Locking victims out of games.
- Spreading false rumours about someone.
- Hacking into someone's account.
- Sending viruses.
- Sending hacking programs to another person.
- Unauthorised interference with a computer device.

Abusing Personal Information

- Transmitting personal photos, videos emails.
 - Blogs Posting blogs where others could see them without the owner of the blog's permission

• ***Bullying is hurtful behaviour that is deliberate in nature and repeated over time.***

- Parents are requested to co-operate with the school when requested to do so in relation to any occurrences of bullying behaviour.
- Look for unusual behaviour in your children. For example, they may suddenly not wish to attend school, feel ill regularly, or not complete work to their normal standard.
- Always take an active role in your child's education. Enquire how their day has gone, who they have spent their time with, how lunch time was spent etc.
- If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform the school. Your complaint will be taken seriously and your concern will be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
- It is important that you advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse.
- Children will be made aware of what bullying is, the damage that it causes and that we are a school that encourages telling in a "No Shame, No Blame" environment.
- Make sure your child is fully aware of the school policy concerning bullying and that he should not be afraid to ask for help.
- Regularly monitor and carefully supervise your son's use of information and communication technology. Pay particular attention to his messaging and social networking sites. Be aware of the need to oversee what is happening in your child's life on a daily basis.
- Parents and students are advised that it is illegal for a child under 13 to register with and use many social media networks, including *Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snap Chat* etc.

- If your child receives a hurtful message on line he should tell you. Take a screen shot and block the sender.
- Children should **never** upload videos or photos of themselves to **Youtube**. Anyone can locate exactly their location using G.M.S.
- Please make your child aware that any negative comment about another posted on social media networks or online, is immediately regarded as bullying as it is available over time.
- **Cyberbullying is NOT 24/7; it's only 24/7 if a child is allowed access to their phone or the internet.** Don't let your own ignorance get in the way of common sense. A simple rule is: '**No phones after bedtime.**' Have a drawer in the kitchen that all phones are left in.
- Try turning off the WiFi when you are going to bed to make sure there are no 3am online arguments.

C. Teacher Behaviour

A teacher may, unwittingly or otherwise, engage in or reinforce bullying behaviour in a number of ways:

- Using sarcasm or other insulting or demeaning form of language when addressing pupils, making negative comments about a pupil's appearance or background.
- Humiliating, directly or indirectly, a pupil who is particularly academically weak or outstanding, or vulnerable in other ways.
- Using threatening or intimidating gestures, or any form of degrading physical contact.

Effects of Bullying

Pupils who are being bullied may develop feelings of insecurity and extreme anxiety and thus may become more vulnerable. Self-confidence may be damaged with a consequent lowering of their self-esteem. While they may not talk about what is happening to them, their suffering is indicated through changes in mood and behaviour. Bullying may occasionally result in suicide. It is, therefore, important to be alert to changes in behaviour as early intervention is desirable.

Indications of Bullying Behaviour, Signs and Symptoms:

The following signs/symptoms may suggest that a pupil is being bullied:

- Anxiety about travelling to and from school – requesting parents to drive or collect them, changing route of travel, avoiding regular times for travelling to and from school
- Unwillingness to go to school, refusal to attend, missing
- Deterioration in educational performance, loss of concentration and loss of enthusiasm and interest in school
- Pattern of physical illnesses (e.g. headaches, stomach aches)

- Unexplained changes either in mood or behaviour; it may be particularly noticeable before returning to school after weekends or more especially after longer school holidays
- Visible signs of anxiety or distress – stammering, withdrawing, nightmares, difficulty sleeping, crying, not eating, vomiting, bedwetting
- Spontaneous out-of-character comments about either pupils or teachers
- Possessions missing or damaged
- Increased requests for money or stealing money
- Unexplained bruising or cuts or damaged clothing
- Reluctance and/or refusal to say what is troubling him/her.

Those signs do not necessarily mean that a pupil is being bullied. If repeated or occurring in combination, those signs do warrant investigation in order to establish what is affecting the pupil.

Characteristics of Bullying Behaviour

The Victim: Any pupil, through no fault of his or her own may be bullied. It is common in the course of normal play for pupils to tease or taunt each other. However, at a certain point, teasing and taunting may become forms of bullying behaviour. As pupils are particularly quick to notice differences in others, pupils who are perceived as different are those more prone to encounter such behaviour. However, the pupils who are most at risk of becoming victims are those who react in a vulnerable and distressed manner. The seriousness and duration of the bullying behaviour is directly related to the pupil's continuing response to the verbal, physical or psychological aggression. It is of note that some pupils can unwittingly behave in a very provocative manner that attracts bullying behaviour.

The Bully: It is generally accepted that bullying is a learned behaviour. Pupils who bully tend to display aggressive attitudes combined with a low level of self-discipline. They can lack any sense of remorse; often they convince themselves that the victim deserves the treatment meted out. Pupils who bully can also be attention seeking; often they set out to impress bystanders and enjoy the reaction their behaviour provokes. They tend to lack the ability to empathise. They are unaware or indifferent to the victim's feelings. Others seem to enjoy inflicting pain. It is of note that many bullies suffer from a lack of confidence and have low self-esteem. It is not uncommon to find that pupils who engage in bullying are also bullied. They tend to be easily provoked and frequently provoke others.

The Bystander: Most students in a classroom or school do not bully others regularly and are not victimised by bullies. Many 'bystanders remain neutral or try to support the victim when they see bullying occurring but unfortunately, some students who observe bullying are much more likely to encourage or assist the *bully* than to attempt to help the victim. With appropriate instruction and guidance, however, bystanders can be empowered to take an active role in preventing bullying from occurring and to report bullying to adults when it does take place.

Strategies for the Prevention of Bullying

'At the centre of a whole school response to bullying is the creation of a positive school climate which focuses on respect for the individual...' Guidelines on Countering Bullying Behaviour in Primary and Post-Primary Schools, 1993 Equip the children with positive skills'.

This school fosters a positive school ethos among pupils, staff and parents. There is a strong sense of community and cooperation between the Board of Management, staff, pupils and parents, and each has a clear role in the prevention of bullying.

- **Through a programme of positive action**, the school promotes an atmosphere of happiness, friendship, openness, mutual respect and tolerance. This will be evident throughout the school.
- **Fun Friends and Friends for Life programme:** Positive self-esteem and emotional resilience is fostered among the pupils by celebrating individual differences / achievements and by providing opportunities for success.
- **Mind Up Programme**, this programme is used throughout the school in promotion of emotional regulation and emotional resilience.
- **Incredible Years Programme**, children experience continuous consistent positive reinforcement through proactive teaching methodologies and classroom management throughout the whole school. There is a whole school awareness and adherence to **"The Golden Rules"**, through strong establishment, explanation, reinforcement and reiteration.
- **Whole school response;** Teachers will encourage and use the 4 Rs system: REACT, REFUSE, RECORD, REPORT.
- **Restorative Practice (RP)** Staff mentors / practitioners have completed training in the delivery of RP techniques. Teachers are upskilling and modelling these techniques throughout the school in classroom and yard settings.
- **'Playworks Programme'** in the school yard, provides very clear yard strategies, constant and consistent monitoring and supervision provide a safe and inclusive environment for all children at yard time using; Yard watchers/ yellow bibs for Yard Helpers and Yard Communication book for Staff
- **Supervision and in-class wet day activities** are in place in all classrooms to ensure children are occupied and that a positive atmosphere exists at break times.
- **Buddy Systems and Friendship areas** are regularly used throughout the school
- **Friendship Week, Anti Bullying Awareness Month**
- **Health Promotion and Wellbeing:** Staff, pupil and parent committees
- **School surveys** - anonymous surveys where children can share their observations / concerns / suggestions
- **Pastoral Care Team**
- **Educational Supports** Provide one to one / small group support to children with AEN to ensure they understand and achieve the learning outcomes intended.
- **Classroom Strategies:** Peer mentoring, role play, discussing bullying regularly, scenario cards, worry boxes, activities, social stories, Peace corners, sensory boxes. Mindfulness and Brain Breaks as a practice in classrooms, teaching skills of empathy and awareness of others.
- According to the NCCA Guidelines, we aim to provide additional support to children with general learning difficulties to ensure all children can be better enabled to achieve the learning outcomes of the SPHE curriculum / Anti – Bullying lessons.
(www.sess.ie/resources/curricular-material)
- **Webwise Primary Programme** is used in order to assist and support teachers when teaching about safe and responsible uses of the internet.

- **Internet/Cyber Safety** workshops for children and or parents

Supports for Staff

The Board of Management, through the principal, must ensure that members of school staff have sufficient familiarity with the school's Anti-bullying policy to enable them to effectively and consistently apply the policy when required. Each Staff member is required to complete a checklist after each review, to state that they have read the updated policy and understand their role as outlined therein.

Support for staff should be appropriate to the individual's role and should enable staff to recognise bullying, implement effective strategies for preventing bullying and where appropriate, intervene effectively in bullying cases.

The Board refers staff to the school's Dignity in the Workplace Policy, which deals with procedures for staff who experience bullying. The Board of Management must also make appropriate arrangements to ensure that temporary and substitute staff have sufficient awareness of the school's Code of Behaviour and its Anti-bullying policy. Substitute and new staff are provided with a Substitute/Welcome Folders which includes a copy of this policy.

Parents and Guardians Role

It is important to be realistic, it will not be possible for a single child to assert his/her rights if attacked by a group. Children should be advised to get away and tell an adult in situations such as this.

- Teaching your child to say "No" in a good assertive tone of voice and to carry himself/herself in a confident way will help your child to deal with many situations. A child's self-image and body language may send out messages to potential bullies. Children should be encouraged to talk about bullying and given an opportunity to express their concerns.
- Approach your child's teacher if the bullying is school related. It is important for you to understand that bullying in school can be difficult for teachers to detect because of the large numbers of children involved. Teachers will appreciate being informed about bullying. School bullying requires that parents and teachers work together for a resolution.
- Very often parental advice to a child is to "hit back" at the bully, if the abuse is physical. This is not always realistic, as it requires a huge amount of courage and indeed sometimes makes the situation worse. Children should not be encouraged to engage in violent behaviour. Teaching children to be more assertive and to tell is far more positive and effective.
- Keep an account of incidents to help you assess how serious the problem is. Many children, with a little help, overcome this problem very quickly.
- Maintaining links with school: knowledge of the SPHE curriculum areas, attending Curriculum Overview evenings, Parent Association events and guest speakers related to the areas of Wellbeing, Emotional and Social Skill development and bullying.

What if your child is a bully?

- Don't panic. This may be a temporary response to something else in the child's life, e.g. a new baby, a death in the family, difficult home problems etc. Give your child an opportunity

to talk about anything that could be upsetting him/her.

- Don't punish bullying by being a bully yourself. Hitting and verbal attack will make the situation worse. Talk to your child and try to find out if there is a problem. Explain how the victim felt. Try to get the child to understand the victim's point of view. This would need to be done over time.
- Bullies often suffer from poor self-esteem. Use every opportunity you can to praise good, considerate, helpful behaviour. Do not only look for negatives.
- Talk to the child's teacher and try to find out more about the child's school behaviour. Enlist the teacher's help in dealing with this. It is important that you both take the same approach.
- If the situation is serious, you may need to ask the school or your GP to refer your child to the child guidance clinic for help.
- In cases where it is determined that bullying has occurred, a meeting is held with the parents of both parties, as appropriate. Actions to be taken are explained and parental support is enlisted.
- Follow-up meetings with the Principal or an appointed teacher and the children involved may take place.
- Identify periods of high risk - teachers are required to be vigilant.
- From time to time professional speakers / workshops are invited to talk to staff and/or parents / children to give ideas on dealing with both the victim and the bully (Lurtel - Cybersafety / Navan Education Centre / Community Garda)
- In the case of a complaint against a staff member or parent, the incident will be raised first with the people in question and if unresolved will be mediated by the Principal or Deputy Principal with the people in question (see Complaints Procedure). Conflict Resolution strategies will be used to deal with the conflict in a non-aggressive manner. Parents may submit their concerns in writing to the Board of Management

Sanctions

Teachers will establish and clearly communicate expectations for behaviour and the unacceptable nature of bullying behaviour. This will ensure that the Anti-bullying policy is proactive rather than reactive. The degree of misdemeanour – will be determined by the findings recorded on incident record sheets, teacher communication and Aladdin Student Management System reports.

Examples of steps to be taken by teachers when dealing with Minor Misdemeanours;

- **Restorative Practice:** mentor (Principal, Deputy Principal, teacher or SNA) will give both parties the opportunity to put things right by meeting separately with the harmed person and the person showing challenging behaviour. Mentor will ask a list of set questions. (see appendix 5). Mentor will organise a second meeting where both parties come together with the mentor and the same series of questions are asked to both parties. A workable solution is agreed and empathy is supported. 'Why' questions will be avoided.
- **Time out / lunch time detention** (in accordance with the child's age)
- **Loss of Privileges** (in accordance with the child's age)
- **Behaviour contract** will be drawn up
- **Communication with Principal**
- **Communication with parents / guardians**

* Note: Steps to be taken correspond with our Code of Good Behaviour (CoB) see

Appendix 10

Assemble a list of appropriate behavioural consequences for bullying. Include lesser consequences for isolated instances of bullying and greater consequences for chronic or more serious bullying. Enlist students to help generate consequences and ensure all pupils are familiar with them by revisiting these visuals often.

Steps when confronting a child displaying bullying behaviour:

1. Staff will adopt the 'I-centered' rule for evaluating misbehaviour. Staff will tell class that it offends or bothers them when they witness certain kinds of hurtful student behaviours (e.g., teasing, name-calling). Emphasise that when staff see such behaviour occurring, they will intervene, *regardless* of whether the offending student *meant* to be hurtful.
2. When a staff member confronts a student for bullying, do so in private whenever possible. A private discussion will remove the likelihood that the confronted student will 'play to the audience' of classmates and become defiant or non-compliant. If a staff member witnesses suspected bullying, they will immediately approach the child responsible and speak to them privately, describe the negative behaviour that they witnessed, explain why that behaviour is a violation of classroom expectations, and impose a consequence (e.g., warning, apology to victim, brief timeout, loss of privilege). Keep the conversation focused on facts of the *bully's observed behaviour* and the restorative practice script.
3. If the child with challenging behaviour does not respond to the above, find an adult in the school with whom the student who is showing signs of bullying behaviour has a close relationship. Enlist that adult to sit down with the child to follow the RP script and further discussion if required. This conference is not intended to be punitive. However, the student should feel at the end of the talk that, while he or she is valued, the student's bullying *behaviour* hurts and disappoints those who care about the pupil.

Steps to support the Victims of bullying behaviours:

1. Develop positive connections with others
 - Teaching social skills, encouraging free play sessions in class
 - Scaffolding play sessions
 - Buddy systems / mentors
2. Teach Assertiveness Skills:
 - Respond to taunts, insults, or teasing with a bland response ("Oh". "That's your opinion." "Maybe." 'you called me _____ and I don't care') Don't let bullies see that they have upset you.
 - Get away from the situation if you start to get very angry or upset.
 - Say "No" firmly and loudly if you don't want to do something that someone tells you to do. Stand straight up and look that person in the eye when you say it.
 - Refuse to let others talk you into doing something that you will be sorry for or feel uncomfortable doing.
 - Report incidents of bullying to adults.

Steps to support Bystanders:

1. Train Student to Play an Active Role in Intervening in Bullying. (the 4 Rs)
2. Draw a distinction for the students between ‘tattling’ and ‘telling’. *Tattling* is when a student tells an adult what another student did simply to get him or her into trouble. *Telling* is when a student tells an adult what another student did because that student’s actions were unsafe or hurt another person. Say to students, “It is important that we tell adults whenever we see something that is unsafe or hurts other people.”
3. Hold Bystanders Accountable for Their Actions. Student onlookers need to understand that they are responsible for their actions when they witness a bullying incident. In particular, bystanders should know they will face negative consequences if they decide to join a bully in taunting or teasing a victim, cheer the bully on, laugh at the bullying incident, or otherwise take part in the bullying. (Help students to keep in mind that onlookers should side with the victim with a phrase such as *Remember, bystanders should never become bullies.*)

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with REGULAR occurrences of Minor Misdemeanours:

A record is kept of regular instances of misdemeanour. Following three instances of misdemeanour the pupil is sent to Principal/Deputy Principal. The child will receive supervised Time Out during break time. The child will complete a meaningful reflective account of what happened and their personal contributions (see appendix 7). Details of all misbehaviour will be communicated with parents / guardians.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with Serious Misdemeanours:

Pupil / pupils are sent to the Principal/ Deputy Principal. The Principal/Deputy Principal contacts parents/guardians. Pupils may be removed from an activity if endangering themselves or others. The child will write/illustrate an account of what they have done. Class teacher contacts and / or meets with parent(s)/guardian. The child receives a (supervised) Time Out. A detailed record is kept of all serious misdemeanours.

The Anti- Bullying Policy and its link to other Policies and Curricular Areas:

- **SPHE** (Social Personal & Health Education) - Bullying is addressed under the strand: Myself and Others, Strand Unit – My friends and other people. Other examples include lessons on self-esteem, building good relationships, good and bad secrets, being a “Telling School”
- **PE Curriculum:** Sporting activities can provide excellent opportunities for channelling and learning how to control aggression
- **Code of Behaviour** – promotion of positive behaviour, positive atmosphere, good relationships ensures a reduction in bullying

- **Data Protection and Record Keeping** – safe and secure facilities for sensitive data, factual account of incidents. Log of incidents recorded which may show a pattern, stressing the importance of record keeping. Use of the internal Aladdin system to log incidents for all teachers. See appendix for steps to accurately input information
- **Health Promotion and Wellbeing Action Plan** – annually included are new initiatives and aims in order to target bullying behaviour.

Roles and Responsibilities

The principal is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy at staff level annually and reporting any reviews deemed necessary to the staff and the Board. ‘The Board of Management has a role to play in the maintenance of desirable standards of behaviour in a school. It should be supportive of the Principal Teacher in the application of a fair code of behaviour and discipline within the school’ (Circular 20/90) The Board of Management are involved in the drafting and regular review of this policy. The principal includes updates on Anti Bullying in her report at each Board of Management Meeting.

Success Criteria

- A happy safe atmosphere, with a culture of openness where good relationships exist between all members within the school community.
- When you hear mantras back from children ‘In this school, we do not tolerate bullying’, ‘Be an Upstander not a Bystander’, Staff members use the mantra “In this school we tell.”
- When children ‘tell’ if they are bullied and trust that their concerns will be responded to promptly
- Survey feedback from pupils, parents and staff
- Children are aware of and obey the rules and are confident about reporting incidents to the school authorities
- Staff apply the rules of listening, reporting, investigating and reporting to principal
- Growth in self-discipline
- Comments or compliments on positive relationships within the school
- When parents and staff feel confident that incidents are being dealt with positively and fairly
- When members of staff are supportive and cooperative in managing incidents.

Timetable for Review

Review and Monitoring

This Anti Bullying Policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Board of Management on an annual basis and as the need arises. The Board of Management will ensure that adequate training and support is provided for all staff, as necessary. The BoM will ensure that the attention of all new staff is drawn to the school’s Anti Bullying Policy and that it is fully understood. All Staff are required to tick a checklist to indicate that they have read, accept and understand the procedures outlined in this policy.

Appendices:

1. **Practical tips for building a positive school culture and climate**
2. **Checklist for annual review of the anti-bullying policy and its implementation**
3. **Policy Review Notification**

4. Surveys distributed in 1st and 2nd class
5. Data Storage on Aladdin
6. Department of Education Anti Bullying Recording Template
7. Restorative Practice - Mentor Script
8. Reflective template for pupils
9. Don't Be Mean Behind Your Screen
10. Procedure Overview
11. Code of Behaviour

Ratification & Communication

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management of 1st February, on 2022 and subsequently communicated to the school community via the PA and the school's website.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Fr. Patrick O'Connor,
Chairperson, Board of Management

Appendix 1 Practical tips for building a positive school culture and climate

The following are some practical tips for immediate actions that can be taken to help build a positive school culture and climate and to help prevent and tackle bullying behaviour;

- Model respectful behaviour to all members of the school community at all times.
- Use of Restorative Practice
- Explicitly teach pupils what respectful language and respectful behaviour looks like, acts like, sounds like and feels like in class and around the school.
- Display key respect messages in classrooms, in assembly areas and around the school.
- Involve pupils in the development of these messages.
- Catch children being good - notice and acknowledge desired respectful behaviour by providing positive attention.
- Consistently tackle the use of discriminatory and derogatory language in the school – this includes homophobic and racist language and language that is belittling of pupils with a disability or AEN.
- Give constructive feedback to pupils when respectful behaviour and respectful language are absent.
- Have a system of encouragement and rewards to promote desired behaviour and compliance with the school rules and routines.
- Explicitly teach pupils about the appropriate use of social media.
- Positively encourage pupils to comply with the school rules on mobile phone and internet use.
- Follow up and follow through with pupils who ignore the rules.
- Actively involve parents and/or the Parents' Association in awareness raising campaigns around social media.
- Actively promote the right of every member of the school community to be safe and secure in school.
- Highlight and explicitly teach school rules in pupil friendly language in the classroom and in common areas.
- All staff can actively watch out for signs of bullying behaviour.
- Ensure there is adequate playground/school yard/outdoor supervision.
- School staff can get pupils to help them to identify bullying “hot spots” and “hot times” for bullying in the school.
- Hot spots tend to be in the playground/school yard/outdoor areas, changing rooms, corridors and other areas of unstructured supervision.
- Hot times again tend to be times where there is less structured supervision such as when pupils are in the playground/school yard or moving from classrooms.

Appendix 2 Checklist for annual review of the anti-bullying policy and its implementation

The Board of Management (the Board) must undertake an annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation. The following checklist must be used for this purpose. The checklist is an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list. In order to complete the checklist, an examination and review involving both quantitative and qualitative analysis, as appropriate across the various elements of the implementation of the school's anti-bullying policy will be required.

Has the Board formally adopted an anti-bullying policy that fully complies with the requirements of the <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> ?	
Has the Board published the policy on the school website and provided a copy to the parents' association?	
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been made available to school staff (including new staff)?	
Is the Board satisfied that school staff are sufficiently familiar with the policy and procedures to enable them to effectively and consistently apply the policy and procedures in their day to day work?	
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been adequately communicated to all pupils?	
Has the policy documented the prevention and education strategies that the school applies?	
Have all of the prevention and education strategies been implemented?	
Has the effectiveness of the prevention and education strategies that have been implemented been examined?	
Is the Board satisfied that all teachers are recording and dealing with incidents in accordance with the policy?	
Has the Board received and minuted the periodic summary reports of the Principal?	
Has the Board discussed how well the school is handling all reports of bullying including those addressed at an early stage and not therefore included in the Principal's periodic report to the Board?	
Has the Board received any complaints from parents regarding the school's handling of bullying incidents?	
Have any parents withdrawn their child from the school citing dissatisfaction with the school's handling of a bullying situation?	
Have any Ombudsman for Children investigations into the school's handling of a bullying case been initiated or completed?	
Has the data available from cases reported to the Principal (by the bullying recording template) been analysed to identify any issues, trends or patterns in bullying behaviour?	
Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
Has the Board put in place an action plan to address any areas for improvement?	

Yes /No

Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date _____

Signed _____
Principal

Date _____

Appendix 3: Policy Review and Communication

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year.

Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website, and provided to the Parents' Association.

A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Signed: _____
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: _____
(Principal)

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 4: Survey to be distributed in 1st – 2nd class

1. Is there bullying happening in your class / in the school?

2. Who is being mean/treating people badly?

3. What is happening/what are people doing/saying?

4. Has anyone been mean to you?

5. Have you been mean to anyone?

6. Who is the Ringleader?

7. Who else is involved?

Any Other Comments:

Appendix 5: Anti-bullying Policy 2021 – 2022 Data Storage

Teachers record an incident of Bullying on the student's file. The purpose of this file is to retain a record of the incident and to facilitate tracking of any repetitive Bullying behaviour. This confidential file is only accessible to the Class Teacher and Principal.

- 1. Enter child's name**
- 2. Search Documents**
- 3. Search Bullying Report**
- 4. Choose Principal and selected staff only on level of protection dropdown bar**
- 5. Select Only admin staff can edit**
- 6. Click Save document**

- search for the student on Aladdin, highlight the student and press view.

- click on notes & documents (in blue at the top)

- click new note or document from template (highlighted in grey)

- select Bullying Report from the drop down menu, click ok

- this brings up a bullying report template which the teacher needs to fully complete and save.

- Choose Principal and selected staff only on level of protection dropdown bar

- Teachers can view bullying reports by going into reports and selecting note/behaviour reports

Appendix 6: Department of Education Template for recording bullying behaviour

1. Name of pupil being bullied and class group

Name _____ Class _____

2. Name(s) and class(es) of pupil(s) engaged in bullying behaviour

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3. Source of bullying concern/report (tick relevant box(es))*

Pupil concerned	
Other Pupil	
Parent	
Teacher	
Other	

4. Location of incidents (tick relevant box(es))*

Playground	
Classroom	
Corridor	
Toilets	
School Bus	
Other	

5. Name of person(s) who reported the bullying concern

--

6. Type of Bullying Behaviour (tick relevant box(es)) *

Physical Aggression		Cyber-bullying	
Damage to Property		Intimidation	
Isolation/Exclusion		Malicious Gossip	
Name Calling		Other (specify)	

7. Where behaviour is regarded as identity-based bullying, indicate the relevant category:

Homophobic	Disability/SEN related	Racist	Membership of Traveller community	Other (specify)

8. Brief Description of bullying behaviour and its impact

--

9. Details of actions taken

--

Signed _____ (Relevant Teacher) Date _____

Date submitted to Principal/Deputy Principal _____

Appendix 7: Restorative Practice - Mentor Script

To the harmed person:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have your thoughts been since?
4. How has this affected you and others?
5. What has been the hardest thing for you?
6. What do you think needs to happen next?

To the person showing challenging behaviour:

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have your thoughts been since?
4. Who has been affected by what you did?
5. In what way have they been affected?
6. What do you think needs to happen next?

Appendix 8: Reflective Activity Sheet

NOTE: The purpose of this sheet is to assist children in reaching a resolution by using a Restorative Practice Approach to record the incident in their own words. This is a confidential document. It is retained on file for the duration of one school term only and is then shredded.

Name: _____ **Class:** _____

Date: _____

Please answer the following questions using illustrations, key words or sentences:

What happened?

What were you thinking at the time?

What have your thoughts been since?

Who has been affected by what you did?

In what way have they been affected?

What do you think needs to happen next?

Do you agree to the following behaviour plan including:

Child's Signature: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Review date: _____

Appendix 9: Don't be mean behind your screen

Cyberbullying/Internet Safety Workshop

Discussion points for parents

1. Talk to your child about the Internet, find out what they like to use it for and what games, phone apps and social networking platforms are their favourites.
2. Become comfortable using the computer yourself, if you're not sure, use Google to update your skills, try keep up-to-date with what your kids are doing online if at all possible
3. Discuss with your child how long they can spend on the computer – Set time limits
4. Apply ground rules for internet use, apply sanctions if the rules are broken and be consistent.
5. Keep the computer in an area where you can monitor its use. Never allow the child keep their device overnight in their bedroom.
6. If your child is putting you under pressure to get Apps or Games that are over their age limit, please ***don't give in***, Set your values, and express your fears for them in an online world full of people that you just can't trust.
7. Explain to your child how they should never share information online, like their full name, telephone number, address etc
8. Encourage your child never to post or send videos or images of themselves to sites like YouTube
9. Explain to your child that people may not be who they say they are online and that everyone they come across on the Internet is not necessarily nice and their friend
10. Explain to them that they should never, ever arrange to meet up with someone they've only been in contact with online
11. Be approachable, your child should feel like they can come to you with issues or questions and that you won't be cross or fly off the handle
12. If your child is a target of Cyberbullying you will encourage them to Record the evidence, Report and Block the Bully and inform relevant authorities
13. If your child is a victim, never take away their device as in their eyes it appears like they are being punished for a situation they had no control over
14. Make sure to tell your child that this situation is not their fault and nobody has the right to be cruel, mean or nasty to them while they are online

Discuss all of the above points with your child and between you, come up with a list of points on how your child can use the Internet safely and responsibly.

Appendix 10: Procedure Overview

Key Actions

- Familiarity with policy: clear understanding of definition of bullying
- Display key respect messages in classroom
- Explicitly teach pupils appropriate use of social media
- All staff are alert for and report any incidents of alleged bullying
- Consistent investigation and follow up of alleged bullying behaviour
- Use tools from anti-bullying toolkit
- Constant review

Procedure Flowchart Anti-Bullying

