

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

School Ethos:

Our “School Ethos” focuses on respect for the individual. The policies, practices and attitudes of our school are inspired by Gospel values e.g. “Love of our neighbour” and “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”.

It is an important element of our school policy to:

- Raise awareness of bullying as an unacceptable form of behaviour
- Create a school atmosphere in which children will feel secure, knowing that they will be listened to and encouraged to report incidents of bullying behaviour
- Develop procedures for investigating and dealing with incidents of bullying

Mission Statement:

Our mission in St.Sylvester’s Infant School is to provide an environment and experience that nurtures our pupils spiritually, physically, mentally, morally, socially and which encourages their interest in life long learning.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others. This behaviour has to be systematic and ongoing. **Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour cannot be described as bullying.**

Types of Bullying:

- Physical aggression
- Extortion
- Intimidation
- Isolation
- Name-calling
- Slagging
- Damage to property

Programmes used to develop an awareness of bullying behaviour in our school include:

- Stay Safe Programme
- School Code of Discipline
- School Rules
- Circle Time
- Class Discussions
- Relationship and Sexuality Education Programme

Indications of Bullying:

- Anxiety about attending school or travelling to and from school
- Deterioration in educational performance
- Pattern of physical illness
- Unexplained changes in mood or behaviour
- Visible signs of anxiety or distress
- Possessions missing
- Increased requests for money
- Unexplained bruising
- Reluctance to say what is troubling them

These are all signs of a variety of problems as well as bullying.

Prevention of Bullying:

The aim of our school policy is to create an environment where:

- The child's self esteem is enhanced in various ways throughout the curriculum especially in SPHE, Stay Safe and Religious Programmes
- The right to safety/security in school, at play and to and from school is acknowledged and respected
- Bullying or aggressive behaviour is regarded as unacceptable
- Children and teachers together can help prevent bullying

- Children are helped to distinguish between “telling tales” and reporting incidents of bullying.
- Children feel that they will be listened to and supported in any incident of bullying
- Each child is responsible for his/her own behaviour
- Each child is entitled to due respect as a person
- Respect for others and their property is recognised

Procedures for noting and reporting incidents of bullying:

- Children inform the class teacher
- Parents inform the class teacher
- Teacher on supervisory duty informs the class teacher if an incident occurs
- The class teacher will keep a record of each incident noting the time, date and names of those involved and the nature and details of the incident

Procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying:

- Calm, unemotional, problem-solving approach
- Incidents should be investigated outside the classroom
- Teacher should speak to the children involved separately
- Members of a group involved in bullying should be met separately and only as a group when absolutely necessary
- The bullying behaviour should be condemned, not the child/children doing the bullying
- If the incident is exceptionally serious the Principal should be informed
- Parents will be informed where it has been determined that the bullying has occurred
- All serious incidents should be recorded in a school book to be kept in the Principal’s Office. This book is for recording serious incidents such as
 - Bullying
 - Cases of continuous disruptive misbehaviour

For Further Reading/Information: The school has the following books on the issue of Bullying:

- Guidelines on Countering Bullying Behaviour in Primary and Post Primary Schools- September 1992- Department of Education and Science
- Bullying- A Teachers Resource Pack
- Stop Bullying “Kidscape”
- Bullying- Resource Guide- Vivette O’Donnell
- Coping with Bullying in Schools- Brendan Byrne
- Self Esteem- The Key to your child’s Education
- Bullying- A Community approach- Brendan Byrne
- Help your child be confident
- No more Bullying- Rosemary Stone

These books are available to Teachers and Parents concerned about these issues.

3

The Policy on Bullying should be read along side the Code of Behaviour Policy and School Ethos Policy.

Ratification and Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 14th April, 2010. This policy will be reviewed in April 2014.

The Board of Management reserve the right to amend this policy from time to time as deemed necessary.

Signed:

Denise Boyne
Chairperson
Board of Management

Date