

Donegall Road Primary Anti-Bullying Policy



MISSION STATEMENT

In keeping with Donegall Road Primary School as a caring community, we strive to promote school values, which are caring, as a school in which the children feel safe and happy.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY STATEMENT

Our school's Anti-bullying policy reflects the view that we aim to provide a safe, secure and happy environment for all pupils, teaching staff and ancillary staff. Our school promotes self-respect for others. We encourage mutual respect between all members of the school community. We provide an environment where effective learning and teaching can take place and everyone has the best possible opportunities to develop to their full potential. The school aims to foster values of tolerance and mutual respect through the promotion of self-esteem of all members of the school community.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We aim to:

- have a consistent approach for dealing with incidents of bullying.
- create a safe and secure environment for all.
- create the social conditions in which bullying is not accepted.
- reduce and prevent bullying and attempt to eradicate bullying behaviour.
- create an emotionally and physically safe environment where positive relationships can develop.
- ensure that all pupils, parents and staff, including ancillary staff, are aware of this policy and their role and responsibilities in contributing to its success.

A DEFINITION OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

Bullying can be defined as “Repeated acts of aggression towards and/or intimidation of a victim that is intentionally carried out by a more powerful person or group in order to cause physical and/or emotional hurt”. (Kidscape)

- Bullying is behaviour that intentionally causes distress to others. It may be **PHYSICAL** (e.g. hitting, kicking), **VERBAL** (e.g. name calling), **SOCIAL** (e.g. excluding from a group), or **PSYCHOLOGICAL** (e.g. when it causes someone to lose self-esteem).
- Bullying happens within a relationship involving some form of hurtful abuse of power, and with the intention to hurt, frighten or intimidate another person.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying has been defined as “an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend him or herself.”

Categories of cyberbullying:-

- **Text message bullying** involves sending unwelcome texts that are threatening or cause discomfort.
- **Picture/video-clip bullying** via mobile phone uses silent calls or abusive messages. Sometimes the bullied person’s phone is stolen and used to harass others, who then think the phone owner is responsible. As with all mobile phone bullying, the perpetrators often disguise their numbers, sometimes using someone else’s phone to avoid being identified.
- **Email bullying** uses email to send bullying or threatening messages, often using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else’s name to pin the blame on them.
- **Chat room bullying** involves sending menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- **Bullying through instant messaging** is an Internet-based form of bullying where children are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct a real-time conversation on line.
- **Bullying via websites** includes the use of defamatory blogs, personal websites and online personal polling sites. This also includes social networking e.g. BEBO

Donegall Road Primary School will ensure that:-

- Teachers have sufficient knowledge to deal with cyberbullying in school.
- The curriculum teaches pupils about the risks of new technology, the consequences of their misuses and how to use them safely.
- All e-communications used on school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored.
- Mobile phones will be switched off and kept in secretary’s office. Pupils will not be allowed to use the mobile phone during school hours.
- Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked.
- Parents are kept informed of school standards and policies and know about schools’ rights to monitor their child’s e-communications.

AN OUTLINE OF PREVENTATIVE STEPS

- Ensure that all staff, parents and pupils are aware of the school's code of behaviour i.e. school rules and class rules. (Refer to Good Behaviour Policy and Anti-bullying Charter).
- Ensure that all pupils, staff and parents are aware of their responsibilities.
- Ensure that awareness is raised through:-
 - (i) Staff Training
 - (ii) Areas of the curriculum
 - (iii) Communication of the policy to all members to the school community e.g. through the Parents and Pupils Guide.
- Ensure that there are agreed procedures for dealing with bullying quickly and effectively.
- Ensure that all staff take proactive measures both in key areas and at key times, throughout the school day to reduce the risk of bullying behaviour occurring.
- Ensure that the policy is reviewed and updated regularly.
- Ensure staff quickly recognise a bullying situation, even if seemingly minor in degree, and deal with it promptly
- Ensure staff display a low tolerance of bullying.

CODE OF CONDUCT

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The issue of bullying is a matter of partnership including all pupils, staff and parents. It is important that all individuals recognise the difficulties which may be encountered in implementing the Anti-Bullying Policy. In this regard:

Staff should:

- Take all reports of bullying seriously
- Log all incidents
- In line with agreed procedures give feedback to all concerned
- Participate in regular training
- Celebrate good behaviour

Pupils should:

- Report all incidents of bullying.
- Act in a respectful and supportive manner to fellow pupils.
- Adhere and promote the schools Anti-Bullying Policy/Procedures.

Parents should:

- Stress to children that retaliation is not helpful.
- Stress to children the importance of social behaviour.
- Report any concerns to the school.
- Actively support the schools Anti-Bullying Policy.

Evaluation procedures

In order to assess the effectiveness of the policy, we should measure:

- Reported incidents over a given period
- Collect qualitative data on consequences of bullying e.g. truancy
- Collect data on academic performance and compare with implementation of Anti-Bullying Policy

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL

- Provide a safe environment for all pupils
- Promote an ethos of respect for the individual
- Encourage pupils to TELL, rather than retaliate
- To establish and promote an open society in which there is no shame in telling

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUPILS

Pupils should:

- avoid any behaviour which could be considered bullying
- **TELL** if being bullied (own class teacher or any other teacher) or if another pupil is being bullied.
- always tell their parents if anything is wrong
- not react aggressively
- have respect for themselves and for others

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

- To discourage any tendency towards bullying behaviour
- To suggest to their child non-aggressive strategies for dealing with bullying behaviour
- To work in partnership with the school if bullying behaviour occurs
- To inform the school if they suspect bullying is taking place to and from school
- To resolve difficulties occurring outside of school to prevent them continuing inside school

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING BEHAVIOUR

There is a two-tiered system in place in this school to deal with bullying behaviour:-

- (1) PREVENTATIVE PROCEDURES
- (2) CORRECTIVE PROCEDURES – these are put in place when a child does not respond to preventative methods.

(1) PREVENTATIVE PROCEDURES

- Through PDMU (*Personal Development and Mutual Understanding*) and CIRCLE TIME
- BUDDY SYSTEM
- POSITIVE CLASS RULES
- AN OPEN TELL SOCIETY
- TEACHING SELF RESPECT AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS
- ENCOURAGING CHILDREN NOT TO HIT BACK
- GOOD BEHAVIOUR INITIATIVE
- PLAYGROUND GAMES AT LUNCHTIME
- POSITIVE ROLE MODELLING BY TEACHERS
- CLOSELY MONITORED SUPERVISION AT LUNCHTIME
- DESIGNATED PASTORAL CARE PERSON TO DEAL WITH SITUATIONS
- TRAINING OF STAFF, BOTH TEACHING AND ANCILLARY
- PARENTS INFORMED OF EXPECTED AND ACCEPTED BEHAVIOUR AT YEAR ONE INDUCTION DAY

(2) CORRECTIVE PROCEDURES

When pupils do not respond to preventative strategies to control bullying, our school needs to take action to deal with persistent and/or violent bullying. As part of both the Anti-bullying and Discipline policy, a number of sanctions have been put in place to deal with this type of bullying. The sanctions have to be fairly and consistently applied. These sanctions are:-

- *REMOVAL FROM GROUP OR CLASS (for cool down period)
- *WITHDRAWAL OF LUNCHTIME PRIVILEGES
- *LUNCHTIME DETENTION
- *WITHHOLDING PARTICIPATION IN ANY SCHOOL TRIP OR SPORTS EVENTS THAT ARE NOT AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CURRICULUM
- *DETENTION
- *FIXED PERIOD EXCLUSION

Where serious violence is involved, the Principal can and will normally permanently exclude a pupil in line with BELB guidelines.

Any incidents of bullying should be recorded on a RECORD OF BULLYING INCIDENT SHEET.

PROCEDURES FOR CONTACTING PARENTS/OTHER AGENCIES

An Anti-bullying, A Guide For Pupils and Parents, will be circulated to everyone with children attending our school.

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This Anti-bullying policy is an integral part of the whole schools Pastoral Care policy, and is set in the context of our Good Behaviour Policy, SENCO Policy and Child Protection Policy.