

Tullamore Educate Together National School

School Policy on Anti-Bullying



Tullamore Educate Together N.S.

Ag foghlaim le chéile an Túlach Othór

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School Policy on Anti-Bullying

Definition

Bullying is repeated aggressive behaviour of verbal, physical or psychological nature. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, while to be condemned, should not be described as bullying.

Tullamore Educate Together National School says no to bullying at every level in the school. Bullying behaviour thrives when there is confusion about what constitutes bullying, when strategies/procedures are not in place, when children are too fearful to tell or feel nothing will be done about the situation if they do tell. From Junior Infant level, all children will be encouraged to say NO to bullying behaviour and to report experiences of bullying. They will be taught that reporting incidents of bullying is asking for help and not telling tales.

Indications of Bullying / Behaviour:

- Anxiety about travelling to/from school
- Unwillingness to go to school
- Deterioration in educational performance
- Pattern of physical illnesses
- Unexplained changes in either mood/behaviour
- Visible signs of anxiety/distress
- Possessions missing
- Increased requests for money
- Unexplained bruising
- Reluctance and/or refusal to say what is troubling him/her

Procedures for Noting and Reporting Incidents of Bullying

- All reports of bullying should be noted, investigated and dealt with by the class teacher so that pupils will gain confidence in telling. A record of reports should be kept by the person to whom the report is made.
- Serious cases should be referred immediately to the Principal.
- Parents should be informed by the D-Principal / Principal earlier rather than later.
- Parents must be informed of the appropriate person to whom they can make their enquiries regarding bullying.
- Pupils must understand that reporting is not 'telling tales'.

- Individual teachers should record and take appropriate measures in accordance with policy.
- Non-teaching staff should be encouraged to report incidents. Discretion is important.

Procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying:

- Calm, unemotional problem-solving approach
- Incidents best investigated outside the classroom situation
- Teacher should speak separately to the pupils involved
- Answers should be sought to questions of What, Where, When, Who and Why.
- When this is difficult to ascertain (as time may have lapsed) a strategy should be put in place in order for a child to keep a record of the next incident of bullying behaviour so it can be dealt with as soon as possible.
- Members of a group should be met individually and as a group
- Meet parents/guardians of parties involved

Programme for work with pupils:

Learning strategies should allow for the enhancement of each pupil's self-worth – Cf. Stay Safe Lessons. Bullying is effectively addressed when parents/guardians and school work collaboratively on the issue, communicating safety to the child.

Note:

The overall responsibility for Discipline within the school rests with the Principal. In most instances teachers have responsibility for their own class. However, school policy is that all teachers have a collective responsibility for the orderly and safe running of the school day. Typical examples of times when teachers have responsibility/authority for children other than those directly in their care are:

- reception time/breaktimes
- on corridors/yard time/hall
- entering and leaving the building and school grounds.
- Also, included here are occasions on which children are on school excursions etc.

It is hoped that all pupils, parents and staff will share a sense of responsibility about the good conduct of the school and that where someone witnesses inappropriate behaviour

that that person will try to rectify the situation and not walk away from it. It is one of the aims of the school to encourage responsibility in pupil and so we hope that they will learn from the example they see around them.

References:

- Department of Education and Skills Circular 20/90
- Education Welfare Act 2000
- Guidelines on Countering Bullying Behaviour in Primary/Post Primary Schools (1993)
- INTO Classroom Management Programme 1995-1998
- INTO Life Skills for Teaching and Learning (2002)
- Discipline with Dignity (ACAD)
- Health and Safety Authority
- IPPN website
- INTO website
- CPSMA BoM Handbook

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on

Signed _____

Name:

Chairperson

Board of Management – Tullamore Educate Together National School