

## What will I do, if I am not happy with the school response?

Report your concern to the following staff:

1. **Class teacher/Form teacher.**
2. **Head of Year/Vice-Principal.**
3. **Principal.**

Where you remain dissatisfied, the school's **complaints policy and procedures** on the school website should be followed.

## Preventative Measures

The school aim to create and maintain a safe, relational nurturing, learning environment. Measures are put in place to support those children and young people experiencing or displaying bullying type behaviour.

## Rights, Roles and Responsibilities

All members of the school community have a role and responsibility to prevent and address bullying type behaviour in any form. Everyone must work together to ensure this happens. The legislation gives schools the explicit power to take action to prevent online bullying type behaviour which is taking place outside school, but which is likely to have a detrimental effect on the pupil's education and social behavioural emotional well-being in school. In line with legislation schools will also work to prevent and address bullying type behaviours on the journey to and from school.

Further details on addressing bullying type behaviour, preventative measures, rights, roles and responsibilities, journey to and from school and electronic communication can be found in the Addressing Bullying Policy on the school website.

## What will I do if my child is experiencing and/or displaying bullying type behaviour?

1. Stay calm and listen to your child
2. Note details of what your child tells you.
3. Reassure your child that they were right to tell you.
4. Report concerns to school and work to agree a support plan.
5. Inform school of further incidents.

### How do I report my concern?

- Verbally by talking to a member of staff.
- Via a letter, email or parent messaging App.
- By telephoning the school office.

### How will the school respond to my concern?

Concern and details around it are reported to school staff.

Staff gather information and review previous records. Staff record the concern digitally and may refer to a Bullying Concern Assessment Form (BCAF) Part 1.

Incident(s) reviewed against the legal definition and TRIP criteria assessed. Parents/Carers informed.

Legal definition of bullying type behaviour NOT met

Socially unacceptable behaviour supported using Positive Behaviour, SEN and Pastoral Policies.

Legal definition of bullying type behaviour IS met

Bullying type behaviour supported using Addressing Bullying Policy. BCAF Parts 2-4 completed.

Supports and interventions for all pupils involved will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated in line with policy.



# ADDRESSING BULLYING TYPE BEHAVIOUR

## Parent Guide



Bullying type behaviour exists in all school communities and society. Therefore the safeguarding of all pupils within a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment is paramount.

## What is bullying type behaviour?

The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) came into operation on 1st September 2021. It provides schools with a legal definition which must be used to assess all allegations and/or incidents of bullying type behaviour.

### Addressing Bullying in Schools ACT Definition of "bullying":

(1) In this Act "bullying" includes (but is not limited to) the repeated use of...

(a) any verbal, written or electronic communication,

(b) any other act, or

(c) any combination of those, by a pupil or a group of pupils against another pupil or group of pupils, with the intention of causing physical or emotional harm to that pupil or group of pupils.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), "act" includes omission.

**Socially unacceptable behaviour becomes bullying type behaviour when the following criteria are present:**

**T** : Behaviour is **TARGETED** at a pupil and/or group.

**R** : Behaviour is **REPEATED** at a pupil and/or group.

**I** : Behaviour is **INTENTIONAL** towards a pupil and/or group.

**P** : Behaviour causes **PHYSICAL**, emotional, psychological harm to a pupil and/or group.

Significant **ONE-OFF incidents** when assessed may met the legal definition of bullying type behaviour.

**Language aligned to the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act 2016.**

**Refer to the behaviour not the pupil.**

Instead of 'bully' refer to **pupil displaying bullying type behaviour.**

Instead of 'victim' refer to **pupil experiencing bullying type behaviour.**

Instead of 'inappropriate behaviour' refer to **socially unacceptable behaviour.**

'Perpetrator' is not an acceptable term.

The Legislation acknowledges that occasionally a **One-off Incident** will be considered as bullying type behaviour, pending the:

- \*Severity and significance of the incident
- \*Evidence of pre-meditation
- \*Significant level of physical/emotional impact on the pupil/s and the wider school community.

**A one-off digital communication via a phone or electronic device, can constitute bullying type behaviour through repeated viewing and sharing of a post.**

### Discretion:

The 2016 Act requires schools to consider the following when assessing an allegation of bullying type behaviour:

**\*Individual capacity to understand their behaviour**

**\*Developmental age**

**\*Additional needs - SEN, resilience, pupil profile**

**\*Individual family circumstances, trauma etc.**

**How can bullying type behaviour be displayed?** Some pupils may display bullying type behaviours using a variety of methods.



## What can motivate bullying type behaviour?

Some pupils may be motivated to display bullying type behaviour because of:

**Gender Identity, SEN, Disability, Race, Religion, Peer Relationship breakdown, Family circumstances etc.**

(The list is not exhaustive)

## How will I know if my child is experiencing and/or displaying bullying type behaviour?

Your child may show some of the following signs:



Click on the QR Code for further advice and support

