

Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire,
Newmarket on Fergus,

School Policy on Bullying

Bullying:

[Note: At our school, bullying is defined as ‘repeated aggression - verbal, psychological or physical - conducted by an individual or group against others’. We must do our utmost to prevent bullying in the first place, but if and when it does occur, we must intervene immediately and effectively.]

I should never bully others. I should never allow others to bully me and if it happens I should tell my parents and my teacher. Bullying is always unacceptable.

Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against others.

A) 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

B) Procedures for noting and reporting incidents:

- (a) All reports of bullying should be noted, investigated and dealt with by the class teacher so that pupils will gain confidence in telling. A special Incident Book will be kept in the office for this purpose only
- (b) Serious cases should be referred immediately to the D-Principal and then to the Principal
- (c) Parents should be informed by the D-Principal / Principal earlier rather than later.
- (d) Parents must be informed of the appropriate person to whom they can make their enquiries regarding bullying
- (e) Pupils must understand that reporting is not ‘telling tales’.
- (f) Individual teachers should record and take appropriate measures in accordance with policy
- (g) Non-teaching staff should be encouraged to report incidents. Discretion is important.

C) Procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying:

- (i) Calm, unemotional problem-solving approach
- (ii) Incidents best investigated outside the classroom situation
- (iii) Teacher should speak separately to the pupils involved
- (iv) Answers should be sought to questions of What, Where, When, Who and Why
- (v) Members of a gang should be met individually and as a group
- (vi) Meet parents of parties involved .

D) Programme for work with pupils:

Learning strategies should allow for the enhancement of each pupil's self-worth – Cf. Stay Safe Lessons, Alive O, Walk Tall.

Sanctioned by the Board of Management 2011. To be reviewed periodically and if legislation necessitates.

Signed _____ **(Chairperson)**

Date: _____