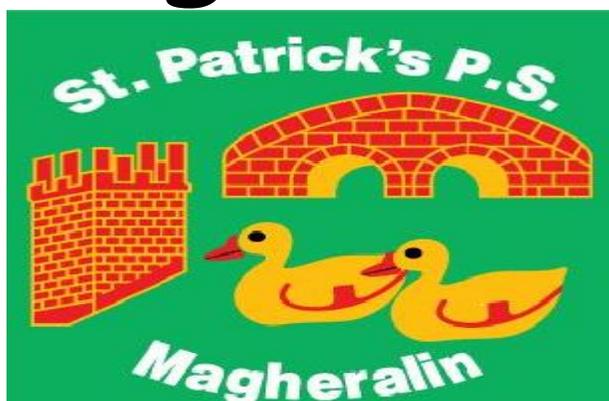


St. Patrick's Primary School Magheralin



Anti - Bullying Policy

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
ANTI- BULLYING POLICY

STATEMENT

St. Patrick's Primary School does not condone "Bullying" of any kind whether it is mental or physical. The teachers recognize that bullying takes place within the environment of any large organization but the school is determined to ensure that all its pupils, both male and female, will be protected from this. Bullying will not be tolerated.

This policy will, therefore, devise strategies to prevent and reduce bullying.

ORGANISATIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGIES

To ensure this statement is fulfilled, the procedure to follow will be explicit to both teachers and pupils. It is important to follow-up each case to give the victim support and to prevent recurrence. All pupils should realise their class can be approached in confidence. Furthermore, the teachers will create opportunities to discuss bullying in order to help pupils cope better with bullies and to enable bullies to empathise with their victims. Through the Religious Programme – The Alive – O Series – the teachers will create a caring co-operative ethos through personal and social education, and cross-curricular themes. Through class discussion, the teachers and pupils will devise ways of rewarding non-aggressive behaviour. It is of vital importance that all the school staff, including the Caretaker, Supervisors, Dining Assistants should be aware of the strategies adopted. A statement to this effect will become an integral part of the School Prospectus.

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is the willful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. The nature of bullying involves the use of **THREAT** or **FEAR**.

Bullying may take the following form:

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|---------------------|---|--|
| 1. Physical assault | - | hitting, kicking or spitting |
| 2. Verbal Abuse | | name-calling, teasing, taunting, sending to Coventry |
| 3. Rude Gestures | - | intimidation or extortion |

TEACHERS OR PARENTS

Parents who suspect their child is being bullied should contact the Class Teacher immediately.

What would constitute **evidence** of Bullying?

- Deterioration of work
- Spurious illness
- Isolation
- Desire to remain with adults
- Erratic attendance

STRATEGIES TO BE ADOPTED

1. All incidents or reports should be taken seriously and care should be taken not to label pupils.
2. It is important to **LISTEN** carefully and to **RECORD** all incidents.
3. Offer concrete feedback to the victim, as it is important to give immediate support.
4. Make the unacceptable nature of the behaviour and the consequences of any repetition clear to the bully and if it persists to the parents. Encouraging the Bully to see the victim's point of view, by helping the Bully empathise with his/her victim, may help resolve the problem.
5. Patrol all areas of the school at Breaktime and Lunchtime. Auxiliary staff should observe a pupil's behaviour in the playground. They should 'shadow' the victim, noting playmates and ensure no situations arise. They should note if the child is isolated, excluded or friendless and judge whether 'rough and tumble' is a cover for intimidation.
6. (a) Peer talks should be used to counter bullying as such could help to resolve any problems.

(b) The victim could record the events in writing

(c) The Bully could record the events in writing

(d) Reports should be retained for a specified time.
7. Teachers should monitor a child's behaviour in class and, if necessary, keep a written record
8. The teacher on Break Duty will 'shadow' a pupil and report on incidents
9. Initially, the Class Teacher will talk to the class and highlight a situation for discussion either during English or Religion
10. If Bullying continues, the Principal will talk to the class and, if necessary, their parents
11. If unacceptable behaviour, which threatens the welfare of a pupil or pupils or staff, continues, then the Board of Governors will adopt procedures for Suspension and Expulsion.

SUMMARY

Auxiliary Staff, pupils or parents, who see a child being bullied or suspect a child is being bullied, should contact the Class Teacher or Principal immediately.

The parents of the victim or the bully will be involved when and where this is deemed appropriate.

- The teacher will take all incidents seriously.

Children should be made aware from Primary 1 that “Bullying” should not be kept a secret but should be reported to the teacher.

- Record the date of the incident, the nature of the incident, the time and place, who was involved and the action taken

File this report in the Incident Report Book

- Talk to the children concerned and make them aware of their behaviour. Make it clear that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in the withdrawal of privileges.
- If a child complains, if the teacher is suspicious or if a parent is concerned, the ‘shadowing’ will be introduced during Breaktime and Lunchtime.
- The teacher will monitor the child in class and instigate learning situations to help both the victim and the bully.
- Persistent bullying will result in the Principal talking to the Parents of the bully to help eradicate such behaviour.
- If the unwanted behaviour continues and is a threat to the well being of another pupil or pupils or staff, then the Principal will present the case to the Board of Governors and follow the procedures for suspension or expulsion. (CCMS Scheme)

BULLYING STATEMENT

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school. All staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring, and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline the bully. Parents of both victim and bully will be personally contacted immediately bullying behaviour is identified.

Any complaint by a parent that their child is, or may be, being bullied will be fully investigated by the designated teacher for child protection, and team action will be taken to protect the victim. This will usually include ensuring that another child or small group of children befriends and supports the child being bullied during the school day. A parent making a complaint about bullying will have a personal response from the designated teacher within one week of making the complaint, indicating the investigation, which has been carried out, and the action will be taken.

The sanctions taken against a pupil who bullies will depend on the seriousness of the case, but will include the loss of any privileges he/she holds in the school. His/her behaviour will be carefully monitored until staff are satisfied that the problem has stopped.

If a pupil's bullying behaviour persists, the second stage will be to instigate child protection procedures.