

At Carr Primary School we believe all forms of bullying behaviour are unacceptable. We believe that all pupils have the right to learn in a safe and supported environment.

It is reasonable to expect that all reports of bullying will be treated seriously and dealt with calmly. It is unreasonable to expect any school to be free of bullying, or that teachers will be able to stop every single episode of bullying as soon as it is revealed. Coping with persistent bullying demands a consistent long-term approach.



What is Bullying?

Everyone in our school is aware that bullying will not be tolerated but it is important that we state clearly our understanding and interpretation of what bullying is.

At Carr Primary School we take the legal definition of bullying from “The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016”:

“Bullying is behaviour that is usually repeated, which is carried out intentionally to cause hurt, harm or to adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.”

The following unacceptable behaviours, when repeated, targeted and intentionally hurtful, may be considered a bullying behaviour:

- Verbal or written acts
- Physical acts
- Omission (Exclusion)
- Electronic Acts

It must be stressed that ***the list above is not exhaustive*** and that any other behaviours which fit with the definition may be considered bullying behaviour.

While bullying is usually repeated behaviour, there are instances of one-off incidents that Carr Primary School will consider as bullying.

Any incidents which are not considered bullying behaviour will be addressed under the Positive Behaviour Policy.

Why is it Important to Respond to Bullying?

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Bullying is not the child experiencing bullying behaviour’s fault.

Bullying can have many effects on an individual including:

- *Impacting upon a child’s confidence and self-esteem*
- *Being frightening or demoralising*

Pupils who are displaying bullying behaviour need to be provided with opportunities to learn different ways of behaving.

Modern research shows that bullying is more pervasive than schools had previously thought and that it is unwise for any school to imagine that such behaviour may not be active within its doors. Carr Primary School is pro-active in addressing bullying and implementing the anti-bullying policy.

Preventative Initiatives

All staff should be aware of the problem of bullying and of their role in cultivating a climate where bullying will not be tolerated by onlooking children. To this end a number of preventative initiatives are employed by the school to prevent bullying, highlight the seriousness of bullying and promote positive behaviours.

- ✓ Raising awareness and understanding of the positive behaviour expectations, as set out in the Positive Behaviour Policy
- ✓ Promotion of anti-bullying messages through the curriculum, for example, inclusion of age-appropriate material specific to individual subject areas related to bullying, positive behaviour and inclusion
- ✓ Addressing issues such as the various forms of bullying, including the how and why it can happen, through PDMU
- ✓ Involvement in meaningful and supportive shared education projects, supporting pupils to explore, understand and respond to difference and diversity

- ✓ Through the preventative curriculum we will actively promote positive emotional health and wellbeing Participation in the NIABF annual Anti-Bullying Week activities
- ✓ Engagement in key national and regional campaigns, including Safer Internet Day
- ✓ Development of effective strategies for playground management, including completion of the TOPS accreditation award and introduction of Playground Pals
- ✓ Provision and promotion of extra- and co-curricular activities, aimed at supporting the development of effective peer support relationships and networks.

In addition, there will be a 'Worry Monster' in each classroom in which pupils can post notes about their worries or concerns regarding not only bullying but any other issues. This will be regularly reviewed by the classroom teacher.

Procedures for Responding to Bullying Incidents

Children need to be given advice and strategies as to how to recognise bullying, how to avoid being bullied and how to respond to being bullied. To that end we communicate the following. If you are being bullied:

- **GET HELP:** from your parent, your teacher, your friend

Children are also told that if they see anyone else being bullied at school they should always **GET HELP**.

Carr Primary School recognises the seriousness of bullying and always seeks to **LISTEN** and **RESPOND** to concerns raised by parents, children, teachers, support staff and others about bullying.

At Carr Primary School, children are encouraged to raise concerns with any member of staff, including teaching and non-teaching staff. Children can report bullying concerns verbally, by writing a note to a member of staff (eg. in a homework diary), by sending an email to a member of staff or to a dedicated email address or by posting a comment in a 'worry monster'.

CARR PRIMARY SCHOOL



Addressing Bullying A Guide for Parents

This leaflet provides an overview of the Draft Anti-Bullying Policy of Carr Primary School. The full policy can be read on the school website or a paper copy requested from the school office.

