



Information for Parents

What to do if you think your child is being bullied

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Holywell Educate Together National School, we are deeply committed to ensuring a safe, supportive, and respectful environment for every child. We understand that it can be worrying if you believe your child is being subjected to bullying behaviour. Our school's approach to managing bullying is guided by national legislation and best practices.

If you feel your child is experiencing bullying, here is what you should do:

1. **Listen and Support Your Child:** Encourage your child to share their feelings and experiences. Listen attentively and reassure them that you will work together to address the issue.
2. **Gather Information:** Ask your child about specific details such as who is involved, the nature of the incidents, and when and where these occur. This will help to provide clarity and assist the school in addressing the situation.
3. **Contact Holywell ETNS:** If you suspect bullying, promptly reach out to your child's teacher. Holywell ETNS takes all reports of bullying seriously and will act according to our anti-bullying policy, which is embedded within the framework of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. Do not contact the other child directly or their family.
4. **Follow the School's Anti-Bullying Policy:** Our Anti-Bullying Policy fully complies with the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* (published in 2013) and aims to create a positive and respectful environment for all students. Key elements include:
 - o Prompt and thorough investigation of bullying reports.
 - o Providing support to both the victim and the perpetrator to stop bullying and promote reconciliation.
 - o Implementing strategies to monitor and prevent further incidents.
5. **Understand the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 Requirements:** The *Education (Welfare) Act 2000* places a duty on schools to promote positive behaviour and attendance, as well as the welfare of students. Holywell ETNS adheres to this Act by ensuring our anti-bullying policies are robust and effective.
6. **Code of Behaviour Guidelines (NEWB):** The *Code of Behaviour Guidelines* issued by the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) require all schools to have a comprehensive Code of Behaviour. Our Positive Behaviour Policy incorporates these guidelines and outlines expectations for student behaviour, including specific measures to prevent and address bullying. We practice Restorative Practice in our school to manage incidents of conflict and bullying behaviour. Our aim is to give the students skills to manage conflict themselves, build resilience and restore relationships.
7. **Cyber Bullying:** In addition to our general Anti-Bullying Policy, Holywell ETNS has an explicit Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy. This policy aims to help students understand, define, and combat cyberbullying, an increasingly relevant issue in today's digital world. Please help keep your child safe online by delaying giving them a smartphone, adhering to the age limits for social media platforms, setting strict time limits of when they can go online and by keeping phones from them at night time.
8. **Stay Involved:** Throughout the process, we will work closely with you, keeping you informed of the actions being taken and ensuring that the necessary support is provided.

By working together—parents, students, and the school community—we can ensure that Holywell ETNS remains a place where children feel safe, respected, and able to thrive both socially and academically.

If you have any further questions or need more information about our policies, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Other policies you may like to familiarise yourself with which you can find on this website:

- *Anti-bullying Policy*
- *Positive Behaviour Policy*
- *Acceptable Use Policy*