**Bunscoil an Iúir**



**Anti – Bullying Policy**

**BULLYING**

Bullying is a serious breach of our School Discipline Policy.

Bunscoil an Iúir is completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate it. It is entirely contrary to the values and principles we work and live by. All members of the school community have a right to work in a secure and caring environment. They also have a responsibility to contribute; in whatever way they can, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment.

**Bullying has many forms including:**

* Physical violence, such as hitting, pushing or spitting at another pupil.
* Interfering with another pupil’s property, by stealing, hiding or damaging it.
* Using offensive names when addressing another pupil.
* Teasing or spreading rumours about another pupil or about his/her family.
* Belittling another pupil’s abilities and achievements.
* Writing offensive notes or graffiti about language another pupil.
* Excluding another pupil from a group activity.
* Ridiculing another pupil’s appearance, way of speaking or personal mannerisms.

**Our staff will:**

* Foster in our pupil’s self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others.
* Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils
* Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is bullied and to the bully, and the importance of telling a teacher about bullying when it happens.
* Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying.
* Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them.
* Report suspected cases of bullying to Siobhán Mhic Shiacais, the designated teacher for Child Protection and Pastoral Care.
* Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying and report back promptly and fully on the action, which has been taken.
* Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures.

**We expect our pupils to:**

* Refrain from becoming involved in any kind of bullying even at the risk of incurring temporary unpopularity.
* Intervene to protect the pupil who is being bullied, unless it is unsafe to do so.
* Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of bullying, to dispel any climate of secrecy and help to prevent further instances

**Anyone who become the target of bullies should:**

* Not suffer in silence, but have the courage to speak out, to put an end to their own suffering and that of other potential targets

**We ask our parents to support their children and the school by:**

* Watching for signs of distress or unusual behaviour in their children, which might be evidence of bullying, e.g. loss of appetite, children not sleeping, children who previously enjoyed school not wanting to come to school.
* Advising their children to report any bullying to Siobhan Mhic Shiacais, and explain the implications of allowing the bullying to continue unchecked, for themselves and for other pupils.
* Advising their children not to retaliate violently to any form of bullying.
* Being sympathetic and supportive towards their children, and reassuring them that appropriate action will be taken.
* Keeping a written record of any reported instances of bullying.
* Informing the school of any suspected bullying, even if their children are not involved.
* Co-operating with the school, if the children are accused of bullying, try to ascertain the truth, and point out the implications of bullying, both for the children who are bullied and for the bullies themselves.

**Everyone should:**

* Work together to combat and hopefully in time, to eradicate bullying.

***PLEASE NOTE***

*BUNSCOIL AN IÚIR HAVE SET ASIDE A SPECIAL TIME WHEN CHILDREN OR THEIR PARENTS CAN SPEAK TO THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER ABOUT WORRIES, INCLUDING BULLYING THEY MAY HAVE.*

*MÚINTEOIR SIOBHÁN MHIC SHIACAIS IS AVAILABLE FROM 2-3PM EACH TUESDAY*

**Procedures**

Pupils should report incidents of bullying to their class teacher who will pass on their concerns to Siobhán Mhic Shiacais, designated teacher for Child Protection/Pastoral Care.

**OR**

Pupils should report incidents of bullying directly to the designated teacher during specified sessions 2pm-3pm on Tuesdays.

The designated teacher will keep a written record of the meeting and of the reported instances of bullying. This should be signed and dated.

The designated teacher will liaise with the school Principal. They will investigate thoroughly the reported instances of bullying and if necessary take steps to identify those responsible and deploy appropriate sanctions.

The Principal will consult with the parents (of both the bullied pupil and the bully), informing them of any action contemplated.