

Anti-Bullying Policy



Ballinderry Nursery Unit

Statement of Intent

Ballinderry Primary and Nursery Unit is one of the first schools in the SEELB to receive the Rights Respecting School Award. This is an initiative which involves taking the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into account when planning and considering ethos and practice. This is reflected in our mission statement

With our hearts we love and respect. With our minds we learn and reflect.

This policy has been drawn up against the background of a questionnaire survey and reflects the main principles of the policy for Ballinderry Primary School.

At Ballinderry Nursery Unit we are committed to providing a warm, caring and safe environment for all our children so that they can learn and play in a relaxed and secure environment. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our school. We take all instances of bullying seriously.

Bullying hurts. No one deserves to be a victim of bullying. Everybody has the right to be treated with respect. Pupils who are bullying need to learn different ways of behaving.

Schools have a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying.

If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Aims of this policy:-

We aim to:

- Minimise incidents of bullying
- Promote a positive culture within the school in which bullying is not tolerated
- Encourage children to tell and staff to listen
- Ensure that children, staff, parents and governors understand what is meant by bullying and recognise its consequences
- Ensure that all children, staff, parents and governors are aware of this policy and have clear defined procedures for dealing with incidents of bullying

- Take all incidents of bullying seriously and investigate the facts of any incidents
- Involve parents at an early stage
- Provide support for any child who is being bullied
- Look for solutions with both the victim, the bully and associated individuals where actions are planned and progress is monitored
- Request support from outside agencies where necessary

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.

Bullying in the pre school setting can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding toys, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist racial taunts, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Verbal name-calling, teasing

Signs and Symptoms at the Pre school Age

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and that they should investigate if a child:

- is frightened of walking to or from school
- begs to be driven to school
- changes their usual routine and/or behaviours
- is unwilling to go to school (school phobic)
- becomes withdrawn anxious, or lacking in confidence
- starts stammering
- runs away
- cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- feels ill in the morning
- begins to behave in a different manner in school
- comes home with clothes torn

- has unexplained cuts or bruises
- becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- is bullying other children or siblings
- stops eating
- is frightened to say what's wrong
- gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures for reporting and responding to bullying incidents.

1. Report bullying incidents to staff
2. Staff will make sure the victim(s) feels safe.
3. In cases of bullying, the incidents will be recorded by staff.
4. In serious cases parents should be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour.
7. The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologise.
8. If possible the pupils will be reconciled.
9. After the incident has been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

Strategies for the prevention and reduction of bullying.

Proactive teaching strategies will be used throughout the Nursery Unit to develop a positive learning environment with the aim of reducing the opportunities for bullying to occur. In our Nursery Unit these may include:-

- Discussing and agreeing a set of guidelines/Class Charter on how to treat others
- reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class
- use of puppets in role-play to highlight the feelings of others
- discussions at circle time on feelings and emotions

- maintaining a Positive Behaviour Policy with praise and rewards to reinforce good behaviour.

Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

The Nursery Unit will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

S.Swan

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