

## ***Polasaí Frith-Bhulaíochta/Anti-Bullying Policy***

- 1. I gcomhréir le riachtainais an Acht Oideachas (Leas) 2000 agus na dtreoirline faoi chód iompair a d'eisigh an Bord Náisiunta um Leas Oideachas tá an beartas frithbhulaíochta seo a leanas glachta ag Bord Bainistíochta Gaelsoil Mhuscraí mar chuid de chód iompair na scoile. Géillean an beartas go huile agus go hiomlán do riachtanas Ghnásanna frithbhulaíochta Bunscoile agus Iar-bhunscoile a fhoilsíodh i Meán Fómhair 2013.*

In accordance with the requirements of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and the code of behaviour guidelines issued by the NEWB, the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Mhuscraí has adopted the following anti-bullying policy within the framework of the school's overall code of behaviour. This policy fully complies with the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools which were published in September 2013.

- 2. Aithníonn an Bord Bainistíochta a thromchuisí atá iompair bulaíochta agus a dhiúltaí a d'fhéadfadh a thioncar a bheith ar dhaltaí, agus geallann an scoil da réir cloí leis na príomhphrionsabail dea-chleachtais seo a leanas agus iompair bulaíochta a chosc agus á chomhrac.*

The Board of Management recognizes the very serious nature of bullying and the negative impact that it can have on the lives of pupils and is therefore fully committed to the following key principles of best practice in preventing and tackling bullying behaviour:

- A positive school culture and climate which:
  - is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity;
  - encourages pupils to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a non-threatening environment; and promotes respectful relationships across the school community;
- Effective leadership;
- A school-wide approach;
- A shared understanding of what bullying is and its impact;
- Implementation of education and prevention strategies (including awareness raising measures) that –
  - Build empathy, respect and resilience in pupils; and
  - Explicitly address the issues of cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying;
- Effective supervision and monitoring of pupils;
- Supports for staff;
- Consistent recording, investigation and follow up of bullying behaviour (including use of established intervention strategies); and
- On-going evaluation of the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy

- 3. I gcomhréir le Gnásanna Frithbhulaíochta Bunscoile agus Iar- bhunscoile seo é an sainmhíniú ar bhulaíocht.*

In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary

Schools bullying is defined as follows:

*An rud a thuigtear le bulaíocht ná iompar diúltach neamhiarrtha, bíodh sé i bhfoirm iompar briathartha, síceolaíoch nó fiscúil, a dhéannan duine aonar no ghrúpa in aghaidh duine nó daoine eile, agus a dhéantar arís agus arís eile.*

**Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time.**

The following types of behaviour are included in the definition of bullying:

- deliberate exclusion, malicious gossip and other forms of relational bullying,
- cyber-bullying and
- identity-based bullying such as homophobic bullying, racist bullying, bullying based on a person's membership of the Traveller community and bullying of those with disabilities or special educational needs.

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and should be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

However, in the context of this policy, placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

Negative behaviour that does not meet this definition of bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

This definition includes a wide range of behaviour, whether verbal or written, whether physical or social, whether targeting person or property, whether carried out directly or indirectly or through any electronic or other medium, which could harm a pupil or undermine her/his self-esteem or self-confidence.

Appendix/Agusín 1 gives a list of specific examples of bullying behaviour. This list is not exhaustive.

4. *Seo leanas na múinteoirí cuí a bhaineann le fiosrú agus plé eachtraí fhrithbhulaíocht:*  
The 'Relevant Teacher(s)' for investigating and dealing with bullying in this school is/are as follows:
  - *Na múinteoirí ranga lena mbaineann an fhadhb/* The reporting child's class teacher.
  - *Mairéad Uí Chárthaigh, Príomhoide Feidhmeannach i gcásanna tromchúiseacha /* The Principal in serious cases.
  - *Is féidir le múinteoir ar bith feidhmiú mar mhúinteoir ábhartha, mar a oireann sé don chomhthéacs /* Any teacher may act as a relevant teacher if circumstances warrant it.

5. *Seo a leanas na straitéisí oideachais agus coiscthe (lena n-áirítear straitéisí a bheidh dírithe go sonrach ar an gcibearbhulaíocht bunaithe ar aitheantas go háirithe bulaíocht homafóbach agus trasfóbach) a bheidh in úsáid:*

The education and prevention strategies (including strategies specifically aimed at cyber-bullying and identity based bullying) used by the school are as follows:

- The anti-bullying module of the OSPS/SPHE programme as it applies during each school year.
- The use of the ‘Raising Awareness’ strand of the Anti-Bullying Campaign, via its website, pro-actively explaining the nature and variety, causes, consequences and unacceptability of bullying. All staff attended a training session on this Campaign in September 2015.
  - Pupils are helped to examine the issue of bullying in a calm rational way, outside of the tense context of particular bullying incidents. In the process they are made more aware of the nature of bullying and the various forms that it can take.
  - Pupils are made aware that the consequences of bullying behaviour are always bad for those who are targeted, even if this is not always obvious at the time.
  - Pupils are encouraged to recognise, reject and report bullying behaviour, either spontaneously or through questionnaires that are regularly used in the school.
- *Forbairt Leanúnach Foirne eagraithe ag eagrais éagsúla, Ionad Oideachais Chorcaí agus SESS.* Continuous Professional Staff Development run by Cork Education Centre and Special Education Support Services.
- *Eolas a roinnt le tuismitheoirí ar shábháilacht, usáid/mí-úsáid an idirlín.* Information about Internet safety for parents.
- *Clár Bí-Sábháilte & Misneach/ Stay Safe and Walk Tall Programme.*
- *Tacaíocht cuí laethiúil do bhaill foirne na scoile a chintíonn leanúnachas ciallmhar deismhíneach chomh maith le foirfeacht leanúnachas.*  
Supporting each staff member on a daily basis while ensuring continuous and exact application of the policy.
- *Blocáilteann an Clár Leathanbhanda Scoile gach láithreán líonraithe shoisialta ar an mbonn go n-íolann said an t-iomad den leathanbhanda a chuirtear ar fáil do chuspóirí oideachais. Tá polasaí Inúsáide Inghlachtha sa scoil. Usáidtear ceachtanna ‘Webwise’ chun múineadh faoi bhulaíocht ar line.*  
Broadband is used for Educational purposes only. All social media sites are blocked by our filtering system. See our ‘Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet’. ‘Webwise’ lessons are used in teaching about Cyber Bullying.

6. *Gnásanna chun Bulaíocht a Fhiosrú agus Láimhseáil*  
*Seo a leanas straitéisí na scoile chun iompair bhulaíochta a imscrudú, chun obair leantach a dhéanamh ina dtaobh agus chun iompair bulaíochta a thairfeadh mar aon leis na stratéisí idirghabhála bunaithe a úsáidfidh an scoil chun déileáil le cásanna d'iompar bulaíochta:*

### Procedures for Investigating and dealing with Bullying

The school's procedures for investigation, follow-up and recording of bullying behaviour and the established intervention strategies used by the school for dealing with cases of bullying behaviour, (e.g. the six step approach available from the 'Dealing with Incidents' section of the Anti-Bullying Campaign website) are as follows:

- I. The 'Relevant Teacher' investigates all instances of reported or suspected bullying behaviour, whether these take place within the school or outside it, with a view to establishing the facts and bringing any such behaviour to an end.
- II. The School, through the 'Relevant Teacher' reserves the right to ask any pupil to write an account of what happened, as part of an investigation. This will be a standard procedure and does not necessarily imply that a pupil is guilty of misbehaviour.
- III. Pupils who are alleged to have been involved in bullying behaviour are interviewed by the 'Relevant Teacher' to establish the nature and extent of the behaviour and any reasons for it. In the event that they have been involved in bullying behaviour they are asked to sign a binding promise that they will treat all pupils fairly, equally and respectfully including the targeted pupil(s). See Appendix 2.
- IV. The 'Relevant Teacher' does not apportion blame but rather treats bullying behaviour as a 'mistake' that can and must be remedied. S/he emphasises that the intention is not to punish perpetrators but to talk to them, to explain how harmful and hurtful bullying is and to seek a promise that it will stop. If that promise is forthcoming and is honoured there will be no penalty and that will be the end of the matter. Pupils who report bullying therefore are not getting others 'in trouble' so much as enabling them to get out of trouble into which they may ultimately get if the bullying continued.
- V. When an investigation is completed and/or a bullying situation is resolved the 'Relevant Teacher' will complete a report, to include the findings of the investigation, the strategy adopted and the outcome of the intervention, as well as any other relevant information. See Appendix 3.
- VI. If a pupil has signed such a promise but then chooses to break that promise and continue the bullying behaviour, this can then no longer be considered a 'mistake.' In this event parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed and requested to countersign their daughter/son's promise. Breach of this additional promise by further bullying behaviour is regarded as a very grave matter and a serious sanction may be imposed by the school authorities (See sanctions below).

All documentation regarding bullying incidents and their resolution is retained securely in the school.

### **Sanctions / Smachtbhannaí:**

Where a pupil has been found to be engaged in bullying behaviour, has formally promised to stop and has broken that promise, any of the following sanctions may be imposed:

- S/he may be required to sign another promise, this time countersigned by a parent/guardian;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be contacted by the 'Relevant Teacher' and informed of the nature and extent of the bullying behaviour with a view to agreeing a strategy whereby a promise to end the bullying behaviour would be honoured;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) may be invited to a meeting with the 'Relevant Teacher' and the Principal and the pupil may be suspended from school.
- The case may be referred to the Board of Management and the pupil may be expelled from the school.

*7. Seo a leanas an clár scoile chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do pháistí atá faoi thionchar an bhulaíochta:*

The school's programme of support for working with pupils affected by bullying is as follows:

**Bullied pupils:**

- Ending the bullying behaviour,
- Maintaining and upholding the school culture to foster more respect for bullied pupils and all pupils,
- Supporting the school culture to foster empathy, and understanding towards bullied pupils,
- Indicating clearly that the bullying is not the fault of the targeted pupil through the awareness-raising programme,
- Indicating clearly that the bullying is not the fault of the targeted pupil through the speedy identification of those responsible and speedy resolution of bullying situations,
- After resolution, enabling bullied pupils to complete a victim-impact statement,
- Helping bullied pupils raise their self-esteem by encouraging them to become involved in activities that help develop friendships and social skills (e.g. participation in group work in class and in extra-curricular group or team activities during or after school).

**Bullying pupils:**

- Making it clear that bullying pupils who reform are not blamed or punished and get a 'clean sheet,'
- Making it clear that bullying pupils who reform are doing the right and honourable thing and giving them praise for this,
- Making parents aware of counselling facilities available to help those who need it learn other ways of meeting their needs besides violating the rights of others,
- Helping those who need to raise their self-esteem by encouraging them to become involved in activities that develop friendships and social skills (e.g. participation in group work in class and in extra-curricular group or team activities during or after school),

- Using learning strategies throughout the school and the curriculum to help enhance pupils' feelings of self-worth,
- In dealing with negative behaviour in general, encouraging teachers and parents to focus on, challenge and correct the behaviour while supporting the child,
- In dealing with bullying behaviour seeking resolution and offering a fresh start with a 'clean sheet' and no blame in return for keeping a promise to reform.

#### **8. Maoirseacht agus Monatóireacht Éifeachtach ar Dhaltaí:**

*Deimhníonn an Bord Bainistíochta go bhfuil beartais agus cleachtais chuí maoirseachta agus mónatóireachta i bhfeidhm chun iompair bulaíochta a chosc agus chun déileáil leis agus chun idirghabháil luath a éascú más féidir.*

##### **Supervision and Monitoring of Pupils:**

The Board of Management confirms that appropriate supervision and monitoring policies and practices are in place to both prevent and deal with bullying behaviour and to facilitate early intervention where possible.

#### **9. An Ciapadh a Chosc.**

*Deimhníonn an Bord Bainistíochta go ndéanfaidh an scoil, de reir a oibleagáidí faoin reachtaíocht chomhionannais, gach beart is indéanta go practiciul chun daltaí agus baill foirne a chosaint ar chiapaidh gnéasach agus ar ciapadh ar aon cheann de na naoi bhfóras, mar atá inscne lena n-áirítear trasinscine, stádas sibhialta, stádas teaghlaigh, treoshuíomh gnéasach, reiligiúin, aois, míchuas, cine no ballraíocht den lucht siúil.*

##### **Prevention of Harassment**

The Board of Management confirms that the school will, in accordance with its obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps as are reasonably practicable to prevent the sexual harassment of pupils or staff or the harassment of pupils or staff on any of the nine grounds specified i.e. gender including transgender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.

#### **10. Cumarsáid**

*Tá an polasaí seo ar fáil do foireann na scoile, foilseofar é ar shuíomh gréasáin na scoile agus tabharfar cóip do Choiste na dTuismitheoirí. Cuirtear gach tuismitheoir ar an eolas faoin bpolasaí seo le linn an phróiséis chlárúcháin agus meabhraítear go rialta ag cruinnithe tuismitheoirí/caomhnóirí go bhfuil sé ar fáil leis na polasaithe eile. Cuirfear cóip den polasaí seo ar fáil don Roinn agus do phátrún na scoile má iarrtar é.*

##### **Communication**

This policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and is readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the Coiste na dTuistí. A copy of this policy will be made available to the An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna and to the patron if requested.

#### **11. Clár ama Athbhreithnithe**

*Athbhreithneoidh an Bord Bainistíochta an polasaí agus a fheidhmiú uair amháin i ngach scoilbhliain – féach Aguisín 4. Cuirfear fógra scríofa gur athbhreithníodh polasaí frithbhulaíochta na scoile ar fáil do fhoireann na scoile, foilseofar é ar shuíomh gréasáin na*

*scoile agus tabharfar cóip do Choiste na dTuismitheoirí. Cuirfear taifead den athbhreithniú agus a thoradh ar fáil don phátrún agus don Roinn, más gá.*

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year – see Aguisín 4. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and be otherwise readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the Coiste na dTuistí. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available to the An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna and to the patron if requested.

#### ***12. Daingeanú / Ratification***

*Ghlac Bord Bainistíocta na Scoile leis an bpolasaí seo ar an 18/01/16.*

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on the 18/01/16.