



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Incidental Inspection

Note on school measures to prevent and tackle bullying

School name	Naomh Mhuire N S
School address	Walsh Island Geashill Co Offaly
Roll number	17616K
Date of inspection	16-11-2021

1. Introduction

In the course of the incidental inspection conducted in this school, the inspector(s) evaluated the work of the school in relation to the implementation of aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*. The inspector(s) also discussed with the school principal the priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture.

Bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. A cornerstone in the prevention of bullying is a positive school culture and climate that is welcoming of difference and diversity and that is based on inclusivity and respect.

The purpose of this note is to support the school in creating and sustaining a positive school culture and preventing and tackling bullying.

2. Priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture and climate

The principal reported that the following are the priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture that prevents and tackles bullying:

- Positive language and inclusive practice are encouraged and acknowledged.
- The school addresses friendship and inclusion throughout the year by focusing on aspects such as 'Being Kind', Lunchtime Leaders, Friendship Week and random acts of kindness.
- Systems are in place whereby senior pupils are supported in planning and delivering school events for junior pupils.
- The school demonstrates commitment to identifying and addressing pupils' concerns and worries.

The following good practices in relation to preventing and tackling bullying were noted during the incidental inspection:

- Pupils in the school sign and use a friendship contract which is displayed throughout the school.

3. The school's implementation of aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*

During the incidental inspection, a review was carried out of the school's implementation of the following aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.

1. An anti-bullying policy, that uses the template provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*, has been ratified by the board of management.
2. Incidents of bullying behaviour are recorded using the template provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.

3. The board of management minutes show that, at least once in every school term, the principal provides a report to the board which sets out the overall number of bullying cases reported to the principal or deputy principal since the previous report to the board, and confirmation that all of these cases have been, or are being, dealt with in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy and the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.

4. The anti-bullying policy is published on the school's website and/or is otherwise readily accessible to board of management members, teachers, parents and pupils/students.

5. The board of management has undertaken an annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy in accordance with the checklist provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)* and the completed checklist is signed and dated.

The school met the requirements in relation to implementing the above aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures*.