

Anti-Bullying Policy – A synopsis.

The entire policy is available to view in the school office.

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.

Examples of Bullying Behaviour:

- ☐ Name calling
- ☐ Intimidation
- ☐ Insulting or offensive gestures
- ☐ Physical aggression
- ☐ Damage to property
- ☐ Spreading rumours, lies or gossip so as to hurt another's feelings
- ☐ Exclusion or taking someone's friends away
- ☐ Abusive text message/emails/ comments on social media platforms
- ☐ Comments or insults based on colour, nationality, social class, ethnic or traveller background, or disability.

(More comprehensive examples are listed in the school policy)

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text messages or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying, and will be dealt with under the school's Code of Behaviour.

St. Michael's National School is an inclusive school encouraging all pupils to reach their full potential. To prevent anyone from interfering with this aim, the Anti-Bullying Programme devised by Sean Fallon, and explained to teachers and parents during meetings in late February, will be fully implemented in the school.

It includes:

1. A set of comprehensive lessons, including video clips, explaining explicitly to the pupils what bullying is,
2. An art completion about bullying where entries will be displayed in classrooms and corridors.
3. Questionnaires,

4. Discussions between teachers and those pupils as identified by their peers as behaving in a bullying way, which will lead to solemn promises being made, and encouragement given, to cease the bullying behaviour.

In its guidelines for developing a school policy on Anti-Bullying the Department of Education and Skills clearly states that **‘the primary aim in investigating and dealing with bullying is to resolve any issues and to restore, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved (rather than to apportion blame)’**. Therefore sanctions regarding bullying behaviour will not be applied until, following several chances to amend their ways, a pupil displaying bullying behaviour appears to be making no effort to change. Only then will a severe sanction of Suspension be enforced.

Should a parent become aware of any bullying behaviour regarding their child, they should make an appointment to speak with the class teacher or to the school principal. Any offensive emails, text messages, or comments on social media should be brought as evidence to the meeting.

Finally the Board of Management and staff of St. Michael's National School will not tolerate in any way behaviour which interferes with any pupils reaching their full potential, socially and academically. We would appreciate parent's/Guardian's cooperation with this aim.

Signed: _____

Fr. Paul Casey, Chairperson of the B.O.M.