

Our Lady of Lourdes School Ballymoney

Caring, Sharing, Learning together to meet the future

Addressing Bullying Policy

2024/25



Addressing Bullying Policy

Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with SEND, Safeguarding, Inclusion, and the wider suite of Pastoral Care policies available on the school website or from the school office by request. These policies include but are not limited to:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy	Staff Code of Conduct/Staff Handbook
Student Attendance Policy	(Positive) Behaviour Policy
Health and Safety Policy	Online Safety Policy
Special Educational Needs Policy	Educational Visits Policy
Relationships and Sexuality Education	Pastoral Care Policy
Equality and Inclusion	Visitor Policy

Statutory Context & Guidance

It is a duty placed on Boards of Governors in Northern Ireland, to ensure the school has an effective Addressing Bullying Policy and practices aligned to the Addressing Bullying in Schools (NI) Act 2016 which commenced in schools September 2021.

This Addressing Bullying Policy takes account of key legislation and is informed by DE Guidance, EA publications and the international context (Appendix 1).

Summary:

- Schools must comply with the legislative definition
- Schools must have an Addressing Bullying policy with preventative measures updated at intervals of no more than 4 years*
- The Governors must ensure the Addressing Bullying policy is properly implemented and preventative measures kept under review so that it is fit for purpose
- Schools must engage with students, parents/carers and the school community when developing and reviewing the Addressing Bullying policy
- Schools must record incidents of bullying and alleged bullying type behaviours including the motivation, method and how each incident was addressed together with the outcomes

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Legislative Context:

[The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

[The Education and Libraries Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2003 \(A17-19\)](#)

[The Education \(School Development Plans\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010](#)

[The Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#)

[The Human Rights Act 1998](#)

[The Health and Safety at Work Order \(Northern Ireland\) 1978](#)

The Policy & Guidance Context

The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 Statutory Guidance for Schools and Boards of Governors (DE, 2019)

[Pastoral Care in School: Promoting Positive Behaviour \(DE, 2001\)](#)

[Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools: A Guide for Schools \(DE, 2017\)](#)

[Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland \(Dept. of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2016\)](#)

[Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Policies and Procedures \(SBNI, 2017\)](#)

Using SIMS Behaviour Management to Record a Bullying Concern - Guidance for Schools 2020 -2021

The International Context

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#)

History:

Drafted: 9th March 2025

By: Principal/ Head of Junior School

Key Dates:

Emailed to Board of Governors:

Discussed at the Board of Governors:

Circulated to staff:

To be reviewed:

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	Date	Signatures
<p>Consultation (Staff, Students, Parents etc) key issues identified:</p> <p>Key changes include:</p>		
Ratification		
Next consultation/ review date:		

Consultation

We value and respect the views and contributions of our school community. Therefore, as part of this policy development and review, and in compliance with Article 19 of the 2003 Education (NI) Order and the 2016 Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (N.I.), we have consulted with pupils, parents/carers, and staff.

Student consultation involved:

Survey - Student Survey December 2024

PASS data - September 2024

Focus group -

EA - January 2025

Parent Consultation

Survey - November 2024

Sharing of Policy - January 2025

Staff Consultation

Focus Group -

Staff survey -

Pastoral Leaders - January 2025

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Statutory Context & Guidance

Introduction

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we acknowledge that bullying type behaviour exists in schools and wider society and can impact on the lives, mental health, and well-being of those involved. This policy aims to help create, maintain, and embed a culture where everyone agrees that bullying type behaviour is unacceptable.

In this school, we believe that safeguarding our students is paramount and the responsibility of all stakeholders. We promote a safe, inclusive, and relational school environment where concerns of bullying type behaviour may be shared and addressed, and where students are supported within the context of Article 19 Measures to Prevent Bullying, Education (NI) 2003 and the 2016 Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (N.I.) (*see appendix 1*).

The purpose of this policy is to:

- define bullying type behaviour
- summarise rights, roles and responsibilities
- explain preventative measures
- clarify processes used for reporting, recording, and responding
- outline monitoring and review processes

The policy is applied where concerns of alleged bullying type behaviour between students have been reported. For other concerns regarding bullying type behaviours please refer to the school complaints procedures or associated policies which are aligned DE Circular 2016/08 Public services ombudsman (NI) Act).

The Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour Policy applies:

- while students are on school premises during the school day
- while the student is in the lawful control or charge of a member of the staff of the school e.g. during extra-curricular activities, school excursions, residential trips, boarding facilities etc
- Education provisions arranged on behalf of the school and provided away from the school premises e.g. Another school in the Area Learning Community, A Further Education College, Alternative Educational Providers/Education Other than at School centres, Home (Exceptional Teaching Arrangements)

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Whole School Ethos

In Our Lady of Lourdes, we aim to provide a child-centred, positive learning environment to facilitate effective learning and teaching for all. All stakeholders connected to the school community will work together to ensure that the school meets the Department of Education's legislation and guidance for schools on bullying.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we believe that all forms of bullying type behaviour are unacceptable. We believe that students have the right to learn in a safe and supported environment.

We at Our Lady of Lourdes recognise the uniqueness of every student and celebrate the diversity of all children and young people within our community. Therefore we:

- We are committed to a society where children and young people can live free and safe from bullying type behaviour.
- We believe that every child and young person should be celebrated in their diversity.
- We are committed to a preventative, relational and restorative ethos.
- We value, respect and consider the views and contributions of children, young people and wider school community.

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What is Bullying Type Behaviour?

'The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (N.I.) 2016' provides schools with a legal definition which *must* be used by all schools to assess reported concerns of bullying type behaviour.

Addressing Bullying in Schools Definition of "bullying"	
(1)	In this Act "bullying" includes (but is not limited to) the repeated use of— (a) any verbal, written or electronic communication, (b) any other act, or (c) any combination of those, by a student or a group of students against another student or group of students, with the intention of causing physical or emotional harm to that student or group of students.
(2)	For the purposes of subsection (1), "act" includes omission.

TRIP

While the legal definition, as set out in the Act, is the primary definition, we also use the mnemonic TRIP. This helps to build a shared understanding across our school community of the difference between socially unacceptable and bullying-type behaviour.

Socially unacceptable behaviour becomes bullying-type behaviour when, after clarifying facts and perceptions, TRIP is confirmed:

T	When the behaviour is <u>T</u> ARGETED at a specific student or group of students.
R	When the behaviour is <u>R</u> EPEATED over time.
I	When the behaviour is deliberately <u>I</u> NTENDED to cause harm.
P	When the behaviour causes <u>P</u> SYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL and/or <u>P</u> HYSICAL harm.

Note 2: Consideration of an imbalance of power

The Department of Education Addressing Bullying in Schools Statutory Guidance (2021) states that schools should consider the following:

"Whilst the term "imbalance of power" is not contained within the statutory definition in Northern Ireland, it is a long-standing element of bullying type behaviour and internationally recognised by leading academics. Schools may wish to consider including imbalance of power within their own definitions of bullying."

While an 'imbalance of power' has not been included in the legal definition, the Board of Governors have agreed to incorporate this criterion to help determine if bullying-type behaviour was targeted. An 'imbalance

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of power' is present when someone seen with lesser power, is identified as an object of negative attention. It will be used to validate and confirm the final TRIP decision.

Note 3: One-off incidents:

The Department of Education Addressing Bullying in Schools Statutory Guidance (2021) states that schools should consider the following:

“Schools have the discretion to include one-off acts of bullying-type behaviour provided their policy stipulates that one-off incidents, in certain circumstances, will be treated as such. The Addressing Bullying Policy should NOT specify incidents that will be considered bullying; instead, the policy should set out the criteria that will be used by school staff to assess whether the incidents will be addressed through the Addressing Bullying Policy or Positive Behaviour Policy.”

Although incidents usually involve repetition, a one-off incident may be classified as bullying-type behaviour through consideration of the following criteria.

- severity and significance of the incident (See appendix 4)
- Evidence of pre-meditation
- psychological/physical impact of the incident on the individuals and/or wider school community
- previous relationship(s) between those involved.
- any previous incident(s) involving the individuals.

A one-off electronic communication can constitute bullying-type behaviour through repeated viewing and unwanted sharing of a post.

The 2016 Act requires schools to consider whether a student(s) intended to cause harm when determining if the incident(s) meets the legal definition. In this school, we will consider the following when assessing TRIP.

The student(s):

- capacity to regulate and understand the impact of their behaviour
- developmental age
- additional, educational, special, physical, or medical needs
- behaviours displayed/presenting profile (diagnosed or undiagnosed e.g. Social Behaviour Emotional Wellbeing, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Moderate Learning Difficulties etc.)
- individual circumstances e.g. trauma profile, safeguarding concerns, family circumstances and resilience

Omission will be considered when addressing bullying-type concerns. This is where a student(s) is or are wilfully excluded from a game, activity group work etc causing potential psychological harm. Students do not have to be friends in this school, but friendly.

Language

We recognise that all behaviour is communication and should be addressed through a learner-centred lens for those who display *and* experience socially unacceptable or bullying-type behaviour. We will address all behaviour in a relational, solution-focused manner aligned to Safeguarding and SEND.

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When discussing allegations of bullying type behaviour, we use language that is aligned to the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016, and other relevant legislation and guidance (*see appendix 1*). We refer to the behaviour not the student and use the following:

- Students displaying bullying-type behaviour rather than the 'bully'.
- Students experiencing bullying type behaviour rather than the 'victim'.
- socially unacceptable behaviour rather than 'bad behaviour' or 'serious/gross misconduct etc'

Any incident(s) which do not meet the legal definition and TRIP criteria will be addressed under the Positive Behaviour, Special Educational Needs, Child Protection, Safeguarding, Pastoral and Inclusion and Diversity policies. (Please see the parent and student guides in appendix 6).

Journey To and From School

The Act outlines a statutory requirement for schools to implement measures to prevent and address bullying type behaviour for students whilst travelling to and from school. To this end, in our school we:

Schools include examples of measures to address bullying type behaviour while travelling to/from school e.g.

- Address safeguarding concerns reported in relation to travel to and from school.
- Provide timely support and intervention.
- Assign staff to support a structured, supervised transition at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Agree a scaffolded support plan to address individual needs, regulation and vulnerabilities.
- Reinforce positive and upstanding behaviour expectations through the preventative curriculum.
- Engage with student voice about experiences on the journey to and from school.
- Promote and develop a culture where all students respect the rights of others to travel safely.
- Communicate consistently the expectation to include and respect individual rights and diversity.
- Ensure effective communication with transport providers (e.g. Translink, EA Transport, etc.) for early identification and response to reported concerns.
- Provide reporting mechanisms for school and the local community to report concerns. confidentially e.g. school email address.

Electronic Communication

The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act enables school to take steps to help prevent and address online bullying-type behaviour involving registered students during term time. We acknowledge that negative online behaviour occurring either in or out of school hours, can harm a student's education and emotional well-being, and we will support affected individuals. At Our Lady of Lourdes we are committed to supporting our students to use the internet safely, responsibly, and respectfully.

The Addressing Bullying Policy is one of several school policies that address electronic behaviour and are reviewed in response to technological developments. As such, follow up is aligned to the wider policy suite (see page 3).

In Our Lady of Lourdes, we aim to prevent electronic bullying type behaviour by:

Schools to specify the preventative and responsive measures to address electronic bullying type behaviour e.g.

- Addressing key themes of electronic online behaviour and risk through curriculum content.
- Engaging with statutory and voluntary sector agencies and resources (e.g. Safeguarding Board NI, PSNI, Public Health Agency, Safer Schools App) to support the promotion of key messages and online safe digital use.
- Participating in Safer Electronic/Online/Cyber Campaigns to promote key messages.

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- Addressing reported safeguarding concerns in relation to the misuse of electronic communication and provide timely support and intervention.
- Providing reporting mechanisms for school and wider community to report concerns confidentially e.g. safeguarding email address, 'whisper button'
- Creating, agreeing and implementing an Acceptable Use Agreements see DE Circular 2016/27
- Ensuring all staff regularly have on-line safety training

Methods and Motivations of Socially Unacceptable or Bullying Type Behaviour

The following are methods of socially unacceptable behaviours which, when *targeted, repeated, intentional* and causing *psychological/physical* harm, may be considered as bullying type behaviour:

Physical Acts	Physical - negative physical contact, material harm such as damaging or taking possessions without permission
Verbal or Written acts	Verbal or written - unpleasant comments, written, verbal, gestures.
Social/Relational	Negatively influencing the actions of others to cause psychological or physical harm
Omission (Exclusion)	Excluding someone/others from e.g. game, activity, group work etc
Electronic Acts	Misuse of online platforms or other electronic communications to cause psychological upset

(Please note the list is not exhaustive)

Our school acknowledges various motivations for bullying type behaviour which we address through our preventative curriculum and responsive approaches. This includes all identity or prejudice motivated bullying type behaviour related to those characteristics protected through Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Motivations include but are not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ability · Age · Appearance · Child Looked After (CLA)/Care experienced · Community Background · Cultural · Disability · SEN · Family circumstances (pregnancy, marital status, young carer status) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Economic Status/FSM · Gender/Gender identity/Perceived Gender · Newcomer/Migrant Status · Peer relationship breakdown · Political affiliation/sectarianism · Race · Religion · Sexual orientation · Other _____
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Rights, Roles and Responsibilities

In this school, we believe that all members of our school community have the right to be educated in a safe, supportive, learning environment. We acknowledge that all members of our community have a role to play and responsibility to prevent and address bullying type behaviour.

Please see appendix 5 which is a table of identified rights, roles, and responsibilities and/or schools should list below any general rights, roles and responsibilities of staff (including teacher and support staff), students and parents agreed within the school setting.

The following staff have been assigned specific responsibility within their role for oversight of the implementation of the Addressing Bullying Policy and associated practices aligned to Safeguarding and SEND legislation. They will support the Principal and Board of Governors with the ongoing review processes.

Vice Principal (Pastoral Care), Designated Safeguarding Team, SBEW Lead, and LSC/SENCO



Remember bullying is:

Several
Times
On
Purpose



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Prevention Measures

The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (N.I.) 2016, requires schools to focus on preventative measures to help reduce bullying type behaviours. The focus of this section is to set out the approaches taken by our school to help prevent bullying type behaviour effectively.

In Our Lady of Lourdes, we scaffold and promote a positive, relational learning environment where all members of the school community feel safe, included and valued. Our preventative measures help avoid bullying-type behaviour and contribute to support plans for students. They are evident in all domains of school life and include, but are not limited to:

Schools include examples of preventative measures they use to address bullying-type behaviour e.g.

<u>Whole School</u>	<u>Classroom</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SEND, Addressing Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Safeguarding, Pastoral Care, Inclusion & Diversity policies · Visible school ethos e.g. essential agreements, displays, visual cues, celebrations, positive expectations · Positively framed, agreed and communicated Rights, Roles & Responsibilities for all school community members · Peer/Student Leadership Teams · Adults modelling self-regulation, inclusive language and positive relationships · Restorative Practice approaches embedded through staff training and complimentary resources · Steps to Wellbeing (Hi Five Primary resources and Post-Primary Take 5 Steps HSCT) · Trauma Informed and Nurture Principles · Celebration of diversity, equity and inclusion · Parent education e.g. workshops, newsletters, leaflets etc · Shared education projects, events, assemblies, key campaigns e.g. Rights Respecting School kindness day, Addressing Bullying week · Vertical and horizontal curriculum mapping (curriculum map could be included in appendices) · Wellbeing assessment data e.g. GL PASS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Curriculum: PDMU/LLW/RSE (curriculum map could be included in appendices) · Structured form/class-meeting time to promote belonging, connection and positive relationships · Cross-curricular activities · E-safety and digital citizenship · Social Emotional Learning · Circle-time/connect and nurture strategies · Physical/sensory environment regulation checklists · Relevant literature and resourcing exploring related concepts and themes e.g. empathy, inclusion, diversity, problem-solving, relationships, resilience etc. · Social thinking/skills training programmes · Friendship Education · Strengths Based Approaches · Collaborative Learning/Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution · Bystander/Upstander Education · Agile groupings and seating arrangements · Online apps and resources

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Non-Classroom	Peer Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Supervision and transition arrangements e.g. including buses · Buddy strategies · Social and extra-curricular opportunities · Professional Development/Training (including for non-teaching and supervision staff) · Structured Play · Play/art and other therapeutic approaches · Designated safe/quiet/reflective/nurture /activity zoned spaces · Enhanced structure during unstructured times e.g. breakfast club, jobs, lunchtime clubs, homework clubs · Structures to facilitate reporting concerns e.g. confidential wellbeing reporting link, designated email, concern boxes etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Student Leadership e.g. student council, student wellbeing teams, prefects, house-captains, ambassadors etc · students trained and supported by staff regarding roles, responsibilities · Peer mentoring programme · student led/directed extra-curricular activities · Buddy Schemes · Circle of Friends · Bystander/Upstander Training · Peer Mediation/Problem Solving · Peer Listening programmes

Prevention Measures to and from school

- Regular reminders of the positive behaviour expectations of students to and from school.
- Peer monitoring strategy on buses through bus monitors
- Regular engagement with transport providers to ensure effective communication and identification of any concerns
- Promotion of key Addressing Bullying messages and awareness of behaviour expectations if students amongst the local community?
- Deployment of staff to support the transition from the school day onto buses.

Cyber-bullying – preventative measures

- Key themes of online behaviour delivered through ICT in Key Stage 3
- Participation in e-safety workshops
- Engagement with statutory and voluntary sector agencies to support the promotion of key messages throughout the year
- Participation in Safer Internet Day

The Addressing Bullying policy is supplemented by the E-Safety and Positive Behaviour Policies.

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Professional Development of Staff

In Our Lady of Lourdes, we recognise the need for effective, updated, and ongoing training for all staff within our preventative measures. As such, we are committed to:

- ensuring that all staff and Governors complete relevant Safeguarding, Child Protection, SEND and Addressing Bullying in Schools training, including those provided by the Education Authority.
- reviewing and amending the content of the Addressing Bullying Policy following training, complex case review or as directed by Department of Education.
- keeping and regularly updating continued professional development records.

To this end:

- All our teaching and support staff have completed the EA Addressing Bullying in Schools foundation training as part of this policy review.
- Key leadership staff have completed EA Addressing Bullying in Schools leadership training.
- All our teaching staff have completed additional in-school workshops on e.g. systems and processes, prevention and/or effective responses, anti-bias
- All members and/or lead Governors with overall responsibility for the development and review of the Addressing Bullying Policy have completed EA Addressing Bullying in Schools training

Whole Staff training - August 2024



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Kindness Crew

The Kindness Crew are a group of students from across years 8-14. students apply for this role via an application form where they outline why they would be a good Ambassador. students then attend an ambassadors workshop run by external agencies. This training equips students with the knowledge and skills to help them recognise types of bullying around them and assist their peers in dealing with these issues.

Their role within the school involves:

Attending and taking part in meetings a few times throughout the year to plan events, discuss arising issues and receive training and advice.

- Creating materials to promote Addressing Bullying for display around the school building.
- Act as a spokesperson for their peers – reporting any incidents of bullying-type behaviour.
- Assisting and planning activities and events during Addressing Bullying Week which takes place in the autumn term.

Addressing Bullying Policy

Statutory Systems and Processes for Reporting, Responding and Recording.

As a school, we recognise that reporting a concern of bullying-type behaviour can be difficult. For this reason, we have systems in place to enable students, parents, and any other person to share concerns discreetly and efficiently with a trusted adult. All concerns of bullying-type behaviour will be responded to in line with legislative processes as outlined in this policy.

Students Reporting a Concern:

students may report bullying-type concerns in the following ways:

- Verbally sharing with a staff member
- By writing a note to a staff member
- By sending an email to a teacher/using private messages on Google classroom etc
- Using a confidential online reporting tool
- Placing the concern in the 'Worry Box'

All students are encouraged to share concerns regarding socially unacceptable or bullying type behaviour that they experience, display or witness. They should not view this as 'telling' but rather 'talking about concerns' with the emphasis on 'getting help'.

Parents/Carers or Others Reporting a Concern:

In the first instance, parents/carers or others report concerns to their child's [Class/Form Teacher](#) in one of the following ways:

- Speaking with the Class/Form Teacher through agreed channels e.g. by requesting a telephone call back via the school office
- By writing a note to a Class/Form Teacher
- By sending an email to a Class/Form Teacher

Please note, that we do not advise parents to send confidential information regarding concerns of bullying-type behaviour to the general school email address.

Should you continue to have concerns following contact with your child's class/form teacher, please contact the Year Head/Head of School/Senior Teacher/Vice Principal/Principal (stepped response)

Please note in the first instance teaching and support staff including teaching assistants, lunchtime supervisors, office staff etc should also report any concerns directly to the child's class/form teacher in a timely manner as above.

Responding to and Recording a Bullying Type Concern

It is the responsibility of all staff (including teachers, teaching assistants, wider support staff, office staff, supervisors etc) to report any bullying type of behaviour concerns. All allegations of bullying type behaviour will be responded to using the Statutory Process Flowchart (see appendix 2), recorded digitally on a Bullying Concern Assessment Form (BCAF) Chart (see appendix 3) and stored on the school data management system. Records will be maintained in line with our Data Protection Policy in a private folder within central records, password protected and open only to key personnel e.g. SLT / DT/VP/P.

Upon receipt of a concern of bullying type behaviour, designated staff will:

- Clarify facts and perceptions.
- Check records and previous assessments.
- Collaboratively assess the incident using the T.R.I.P. criteria (Record on BCAF Part 1).

Where bullying type behaviour has been confirmed and in consultation with students involved and their parents/carers. Designated staff (Pastoral Leaders) will ensure that parts 2-4 of the BCAF are completed will:

- Identify methods and potential motivating factors (Record on BCAF Part 2).
- Identify relevant level of support and intervention (Levels 1-4).
- Select appropriate support and interventions (see appendix 4) for all students involved (Record on BCAF Part 3a for the student experiencing and 3b for the student displaying).
- Ensure selected approaches are aligned to and in the context of wider safeguarding, SEND, Equality and diversity, and positive behaviour policies.
- Implement, track, monitor and record effectiveness of supports and interventions (BCAF Part 3).
- Review outcome of interventions (Record on BCAF Part 4).
- Select and implement further interventions as necessary.
- Based on the level of progress, revisit BCAF Parts 3a and 3b or proceed to case closure.

Please note details of support and intervention plans cannot be disclosed to anyone other than that student and their parents/carers.

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Monitoring and Review of Policy

The Act places responsibility on the Board of Governors, in consultation with the principal, to monitor the effectiveness of the Addressing Bullying Policy. To this end, the Board of Governors will:

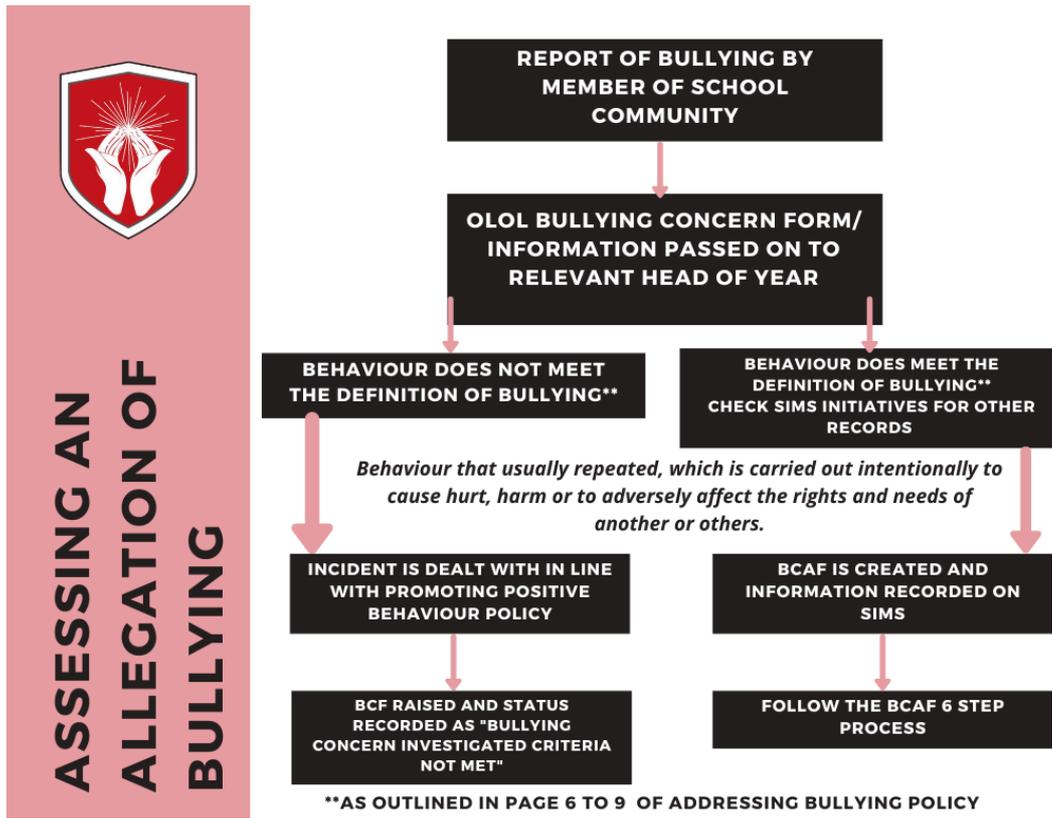
- maintain a standing item on the agenda, under Safeguarding, where a report on bullying type behaviour is presented by the principal (see appendix 7).
- appoint a lead Governor to liaise with the principal (e.g your designated safeguarding, pastoral care governor)
- minute the number of incidents including methods, motivations and how they were addressed
- identify trends and patterns to inform future policy and practice development and review.
- record written responses to relevant students, parents/carers when appropriate.

The Addressing Bullying Policy will be reviewed in consultation with all school community stakeholders:

- at intervals of no less than four years (this is a minimum requirement school may choose to review more frequently), or
- following any complex incident which highlights the need for such a review,
- when reviewing other associated policies, such as the Safeguarding Policy and the Positive Behaviour Policy
- in response to a recommendation by the Education and Training Inspectorate
- following new guidance as directed by the Department of Education.

A copy of this policy is available online at www.ourladyoflourdesballymoney.com Parents/carers can also request a hard copy by contacting the school office on 028 2766 2050.

Responding to a Bullying Concern



SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

FOR RESPONDING AND RECORDING BULLYING TYPE BEHAVIOUR

STEP 1: REPORTING	STEP 2: RECORDING CONCERNS	STEP 3: ASSESSING CONCERN	STEP 4: FOLLOW-UP AND RESPONDING	STEP 5: MONITORING AND REVIEWING
All school staff	Head of Year	Head of Year/Head of School	Pastoral Council	Pastoral Council
Concern is raised by student, parent and/or member of staff Concern should be noted down on our Bullying Concern Form	Record on SIMS - BCAF needs to be raised with Part 1 and 2 Completed - reference should be made to the TRIP criteria	Assessment of the BCAF should be made to determine if this is in fact bullying type behaviour/one of incident Interventions and support for those involved should be put in place and recorded	Part 3a and 3b of the BCAF need to complete This stage should involve discussions with student(s), parents and, if required, multi-agency support	A full review of the actions and interventions to date should be carried out, to determine if the success criteria from Part 3a and 3b have been met. BCAF Part 4 should be completed

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NIABF advocates a restorative approach to responding to bullying type behaviour. Interventions suggested in the Effective Responses to bullying type behaviour resource focus on responding to the behaviour, resolving the concern and restoring the well-being of those involved.

When responding to a bullying concern, school staff shall implement interventions aimed at responding to the behaviour, resolving the concern and restoring the well-being of those involved. Where appropriate, school staff may implement sanctions for those displaying bullying type behaviour.

Again, any information regarding action taken regarding a student cannot be disclosed to anyone other than that student and his/her parents/carers.

Recording

It is a legal requirement, as set out in the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016, to maintain a record of all incidents of bullying and alleged bullying type behaviour.

The **SIMS Behaviour Management Module** is used for record keeping. The attached BACF will be stored, digitally in the staff area and the maintenance of these records is the responsibility of the staff member completing the BCAF. Only Pastoral Staff will have access to these records should the incidents need to be reviewed. The records will also be used to help inform future Addressing Bullying policies and practices within the school.

The reports include

The school will centrally record all relevant information related to reports of bullying concerns, including

- how the bullying type behaviour was displayed (the method)
- the motivation for the behaviour
- how each incident was addressed by the school
- the outcome of the interventions employed.

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Appendix 1:

The Legislative Context:

[Anti-discrimination laws applicable in Northern Ireland \(Equality Commission, 2024\)](#)

[The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

[Public Services Ombudsman Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

[The Children's Services Cooperation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#)

[The Education \(School Development Plans\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010](#)

[The Special Education Needs and Disability Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2005](#)

[The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2016/8/contents>

[The Education \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1998](#)

[The Education and Libraries Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2003 \(A17-19\)](#)

[The Northern Ireland Act 1998 Section 75](#)

[The Human Rights Act 1998](#)

[The Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#)

[The Health and Safety at Work Order \(Northern Ireland\) 1978](#)

The Policy & Guidance Context

[Implementing Trauma Informed Approaches in Northern Ireland and Executive Summary \(QUB and SBI, 2024\)](#)

[CCEA Relationships and Education Resource Guidance \(2024\)](#)

[ETI Safeguarding Proforma \(ETI, 2023\)](#)

[Nurture Group Provision Guidance for Schools \(DE, 2023\)](#)

Draft Consultation: [Consultation on the Statutory Guidance On The Reduction And Management Of Restrictive Practices In Educational Settings In Northern Ireland \(DE, 2023\)](#) DE, DoH & DoJ

[Children and Young Peoples Emotional Health and Wellbeing in Education Framework \(DE, 2021\)](#)
DE/DoH

[A Life Deserved: Caring for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland \(DOH and DE, 2021\)](#)

[Suspensions and Exclusions for students in Northern Ireland \(DE Circular, March 2021\)](#)

[Model Equality and Inclusion Policy and Guidance \(EA, 2020\)](#)

[Resource File for Children with Special Educational Needs \(DE, 2020\)](#)

[Guidance on Identifying and Supporting Learners with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties \(CCEA, 2020\)](#)

Mental health care systems (SBNI, 2019)

[The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 Statutory Guidance for Schools and Boards of Governors \(DE, 2019\)](#)

Addressing Bullying Policy

[Putting Care into Education \(DE, 2018\)](#)

[Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools: A Guide for Schools \(DE, 2017\)](#)

[Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Policies and Procedures \(SBNI, 2017\)](#)

[Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland \(Dept. of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2016\)](#)

[Miss School = Miss Out Improving student Attendance Strategy \(DE, 2016\)](#)

[Pastoral Care in School: Promoting Positive Behaviour \(DE, 2001\)](#)

Every School a Good School DE 2009

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/every-school-good-school-esags>

The International Context

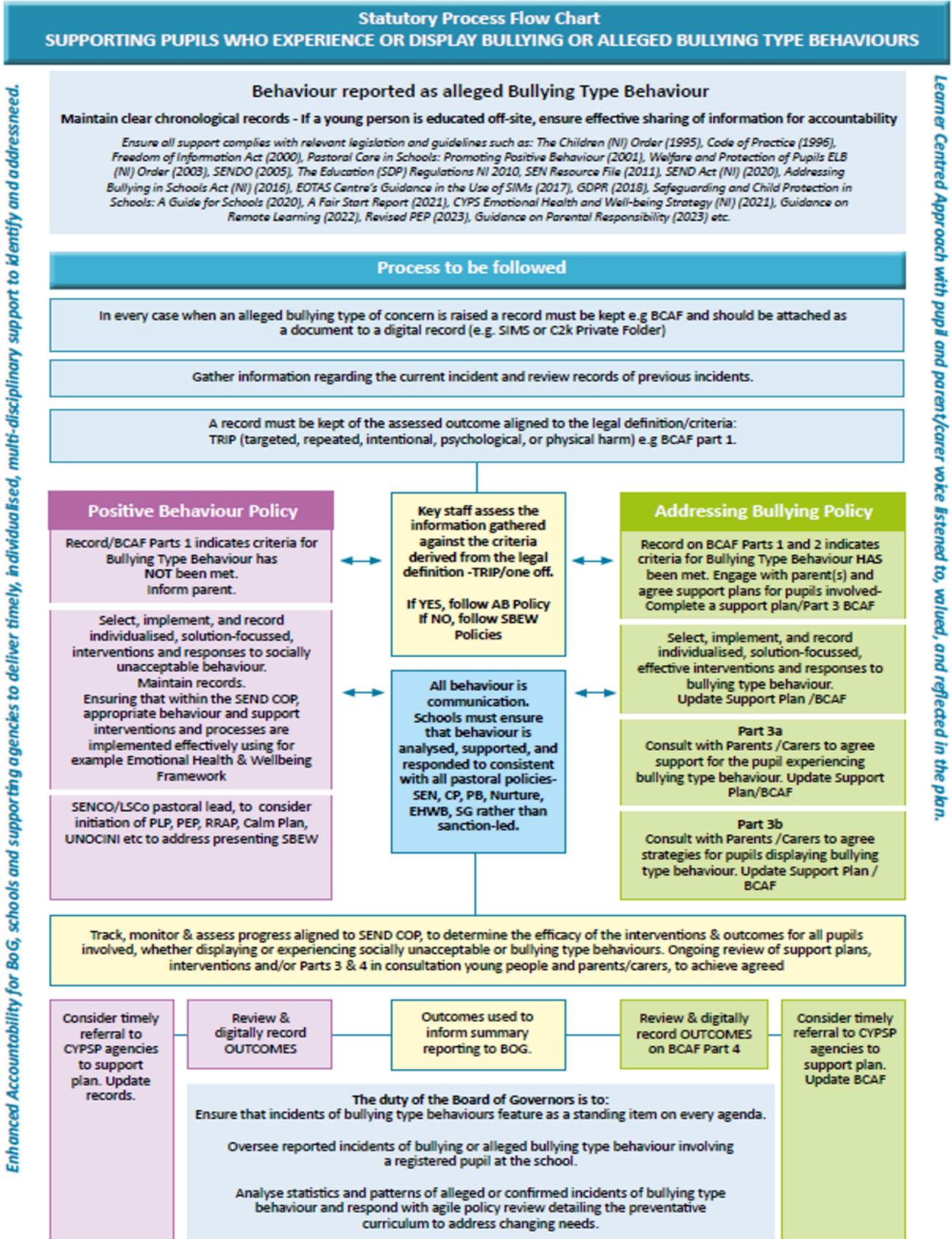
[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#)

To:

- Be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation (A,19)
- Be protected from discrimination (A, 2)
- Express their views, in a supported and accessible way, on issues that affect them, and to have their opinions taken seriously (A.12);
- Education. (A.28)

Appendix 2

Flow Chart



Appendix 3 -

OLOL Bullying Concern Form



BCAF Ref:

BULLYING CONCERN FORM

Student Name:

Student Class:

Teacher Name:

Reason for Concern:

Staff Signature:

Date:

Appendix 4

Bullying Concern Form

Bullying Concern Assessment Form

Incident Date:

Pupils Involved	Role	Incident Date	Gender	DOB	Year and Reg
	Pupil experiencing bullying behaviour				
	Pupil displaying bullying behaviour				

Incident	Comments
Bullying Concern	STUDENT EXPERIENCING BULLYING NAME - MOTIVATION

+ PART 1

ASSESSMENT OF CONCERN	Date: <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>		
Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 defines bullying as follows:			
<p><i>“bullying” includes (but is not limited to) the repeated use of —</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) <i>any verbal, written or electronic communication</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(b) <i>any other act, or</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(c) <i>any combination of those,</i></p> <p><i>by a pupil or a group of pupils against another pupil or group of pupils, with the intention of causing physical or emotional harm to that pupil or group of pupils.</i></p>			
	Name(s)	Gender M / F	DOB/Year Group
Check records for previously recorded incidents			

Outline of incident(s): Attach all written accounts/drawings of incident(s) completed by targeted pupil, witnesses (i.e. other pupils, staff). Include dates of event(s), the type of information gathered and where the information is stored (i.e. on paper or in SIMS). #

Appendix 5

OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL



THIS IS A NO BULLYING ZONE.

Let's stop bullying in our school and everywhere else



DO YOUR PART. IF YOU RECOGNISE THE SIGNS, PLEASE TELL A TEACHER.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL



CONFLICT vs BULLYING

Understand the difference

CONFLICT

A Disagreement or Difference of Opinion
An Inevitable Part of Group Dynamics
Equal Power Between Those Involved
Usually an Isolated Incident/Occasional
All Involved Make An Effort to Resolve the Situation

BULLYING

Based on an Imbalance of Power
The Intent to Harm - On Purpose
Happens Repeatedly
Serious - Causes Physical or Emotional Harm
Does Not Stop When Asked
Should Always Be Reported

DO YOUR PART. IF YOU RECOGNISE THE SIGNS, PLEASE TELL A TEACHER.

School Promotional Materials

TYPES OF BULLYING



Physical Bullying

The victim received various harsh physical treatments such as pushing & hitting..



Verbal Bullying

Verbal bullying is coming out with painful words nicknames.



Social Bullying

is carried out by ignoring, isolating, or avoiding.



Cyber Bullying

In the form of rude comments and threats that intend to hurt someone on social media



Appendix 6: Effective Responses, Support, and Intervention Levels 1 & 2

This list is not exhaustive and supports implemented are specific to each individual student.

<p>Level 1: Interventions at Level 1 are designed to support students experiencing and/or displaying socially unacceptable or bullying-type behaviours. These interventions should be taken forward while listening to, supporting, and strengthening relationships with and between the students involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Schedule a solution focussed meeting with parents/carers of the child experiencing or displaying · Review SEND CoP and the potential requirement for PLP to address needs e.g. SBEW, ASD, MLD, ADHD · Refer, align and link to existing support plans e.g. student Learning Plan (PLP), Risk Reduction and Action Plan (RRAP), Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP), Child Looked After Personal Education Plan (PEP) etc · Explore the concept of bullying type behaviour through resources e.g. ABSIT Information Leaflets and High Five resources · Co-create, agree, and implement a Calm Plan focused on identifying signals of dysregulation and any potential triggers · Co-create, agree, and implement a Seeking Help Plan (ERTBB) · Complete and/or review additional assessments to build a picture of SBEW needs e.g. GL PASS, Boxall · Use of specific verbal cues, affective statements e.g. High Five Journal · Use visual reminders of positive expectations · Explore friendship as a concept · Develop social skills/stories and additional emotional literacy sessions · Enhance structure during unstructured time e.g. clubs, jobs, supervised safe spaces, zoned areas, breakfast clubs etc. · Explicitly teach positive expectations · Explore additional opportunities to build empathy and kindness e.g. High Five Resources, Roots of Empathy, Restorative Approaches, Hopeful Minds · Use play, art, or other therapeutic approaches · Make alternative arrangements for travelling to and from school (ERTBB) · Play group games to encourage positive interactions and inclusion · Create activities, clubs, and events to grow social communication skills · Review specific incident using ABC (Antecedent, Behaviour, Consequence) chart · Review transition planning and student support across phases, year groups, schools · Use 'Circle of Friends' activity (ERTBB) · Use circle time/connect and nurture strategies · Use reflective scripts and approaches to respond, resolve and restore wellbeing e.g. Restorative Question prompts, Worth a rethink activity, Rights Respecting script (ERTBB) · Other. Select further supports and interventions other resources e.g. SEN Resource File, High Five Hub Resources (Primary) Boxall, Nurture, Emotional Health and Well-being Framework, Trauma Informed, IES Newcomer Good Practice Guidance, Putting Care into Education etc. 	<p>Level 2: Interventions at Level 2 are in addition to those at Level 1 but may involve a shift from individual support to group or whole class interventions. The need for group work around behaviour, could reflect potential escalation and a wider impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assign key adult(s) to facilitate ongoing group engagement, check-ins, and reflection · Consider access to nurture support, post primary well-being hub etc to support SBEW needs · Review SEND CoP and the potential requirement for PLP to address needs e.g. SBEW, ASD, MLD, ADHD · Refer, align and link to existing support plans e.g. student Learning Plan (PLP), Risk Reduction and Action Plan (RRAP), Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP), Child Looked After Personal Education Plan (PEP) etc · Scaffold student experience to help build new relationships/ friendships e.g. flexible groupings, seating plans. See 'Good Practice Advice & Guidance for Schools Receiving Newcomers Including students Seeking Asylum' document · Create, agree, and embed additional positive group expectations and routines · Use restorative practices, group mediation and conflict resolution approaches (ERTBB) · Use role plays, narrative/social stories, and problem-solving scenarios to identify, practice and model appropriate social skills · Use SMART(E) targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound and Evidence-based) for adult monitoring, to ensure increased 'felt' safety and connection for all students · Introduce further group interventions focused on emotional well-being/literacy, resilience, e.g. High Five approaches, social thinking programmes, Apps, cards, Blob Tree exercise etc. · Partner with positive role model(s) to reaffirm socially acceptable and upstander behaviour · Provide access to School Counselling or other therapeutic service · Provide opportunities for students to experience additional responsibility, building sense of belonging and self esteem · Consider referral to community-based organisations e.g. mentoring programmes · Build group awareness of bystander and upstander behaviours · Create a visual reminder of group expectations and routines, e.g. First and Then · Use reflective scripts and approaches to respond, resolve and restore wellbeing e.g. Support Group Method, solution focused approach (ERTBB) · Consider referral to Family Support Hub · Consider referral to EA services for advice · Develop a support network to scaffold student(s) in school e.g. supportive adults around the student, seek help/support · Facilitate intervention sessions regarding on-line behaviour and safety e.g. resources on SBNI hub and Safer Schools App · Introduce enhanced social skills sessions to scaffold positively framed expectations and routines · Introduce further group interventions focused on emotional well-being/literacy, resilience, e.g. High Five approaches, social thinking programmes, Apps, cards, Blob Tree exercise etc. · Use targeted small group circle time, Circle of Friends (ERTBB) · Other. Select further supports and interventions from Level 1 strategies or other resources (see Level 1 for list)
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Effective Responses, Support, and Intervention Levels 3 and 4

This list is not exhaustive and supports implemented are specific to each individual student.

Level 3: Interventions at Level 3 are in addition to those at levels 1 and 2 and address bullying type behaviour that may be more sustained, complex and with increased risk to those involved. Responses at this level are led by Senior Pastoral, Safeguarding and SEND staff working with students, parents/carers, and relevant agencies to agree supports under review.

- Arrange and contribute to a multi-disciplinary meeting to inform ongoing support and intervention with allied professionals
- Avail of nurture support, post primary well-being hub etc to support SBEW needs
- Review SEND CoP, update PLP to address SEND/SBEW needs, and consider emergency Annual Review as appropriate
- Refer, align and link to existing support plans e.g. student Learning Plan (PLP), Risk Reduction and Action Plan (RRAP),
- Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP), Child Looked After Personal Education Plan (PEP) etc
- Schedule regular check-ins with a trusted adult or supportive adults around the student
- Use multi-stage strategies and approaches with groups and/or individual students e.g. PIKAS method of Shared Concern (ERTBB)
- Complete, agree and share a Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP) in the context of other support planning e.g. CSE or Forensic RAMP, PLP, UNOCINI etc
- Complete a referral and engage with external agencies to facilitate an agreed intervention programme
- Consider/make additional referral to community-based organisations e.g. CYPSP Partners, mentoring programmes
- Use restorative conferences, prepared restorative conversations, one to one restorative session templates and/or adapted restorative questions for students with complex needs
- Facilitate additional one to one session focusing on emotional wellbeing/literacy/resilience
- Contact EA services for further advice and guidance
- Facilitate additional one to one intervention programme to teach and model the importance of empathy and kindness towards others
- Facilitate additional one to one session with a focus on self-regulation and social communication
- Facilitate intervention sessions regarding on-line behaviour and e-safety e.g. see resources on SBNI hub and Safer Schools App
- Make reasonable adjustments to support de-escalation, inclusion, and student SEND/SBEW needs
- Provide opportunities to work one to one with a supportive adult
- Provide targeted support to scaffold appropriate friendships/relationships
- Refer to Education Welfare Service where attendance is impacted and EWS thresholds are met
- Complete a referral and engage with EA services to facilitate an agreed intervention programme
- Other. Select further supports and interventions from Level 1 and 2 strategies or other resources e.g. SEN Resource File, High Five Hub Resources (Primary) Boxall, Nurture, Emotional Health and Well-being Framework, Trauma Informed, IES Newcomer Good Practice Guidance, Putting Care into Education etc.

Level 4: Bullying type behaviours assessed at Level 4 are complex, significant, and involve a threat to the safety and welfare of the students involved. Incidents at this level must be assessed in relation to the risk posed to any/all the students involved. As such, the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures must be applied. Responses continue to be led by Senior Pastoral, Safeguarding and SEND staff working with students, parents/carers, relevant agencies, and Board of Governors to agree supports and implementation. Interventions at level 4 are in addition to those in levels 1-3.

- Continue in the context of multi-agency advice and planning to reflect, respond, resolve, and restore in relation to ongoing concerns, with trusted adult(s) and/or mentor(s)
- Review Risk Reduction and Action Plan and implement strategies to prevent triggers impacting
- Review SEND CoP, update PLP to address SEND/SBEW needs and initiate emergency Annual Review if appropriate
- Refer, align and link to existing support plans e.g. student Learning Plan (PLP), Risk Reduction and Action Plan (RRAP), Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP), Child Looked After Personal Education Plan (PEP) etc
- Ensure compliance with current DE guidelines and safeguarding requirements when considering suspension based on risk with the understanding that school must plan for inclusion
- Initiate/review Child Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP)
- Initiate/review of Child Looked After Personal Education Plan (PEP)
- Refer to EA services for specialised support e.g. CPSS for advice.
- Refer to external agencies for further specialised support e.g. GP, CAMHS, Family Support Hub, PSNI etc
- Refer to Independent Counselling Service for Schools (ICSS)
- Refer to relevant investigative agencies e.g. PSNI, HSCT, Gateway etc
- Complete a UNOCINI.
- Further review bullying type concerns alongside other school policies including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Positive Behaviour, Reasonable Force and Safe Handling, Inclusion and Diversity, and SEND Policies that are aligned to current legislative guidance
- Evaluate need for specialist provision or exceptional circumstances to aid ongoing support and intervention
- Other. Select further supports and interventions from Levels 1-3 strategies or other resources e.g. SEN Resource File, High Five Hub Resources (Primary) Boxall, Nurture, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework, Trauma Informed, IES Newcomer Good Practice Guidance, Putting Care into Education etc.

Appendix 7: Rights, Roles & Responsibilities

We believe that all members of our school community have the right to a safe, supportive, learning environment. We all have a role and responsibility to prevent and address bullying type behaviour.

Staff Rights, Roles & Responsibilities	Children & Young People's Rights, Roles & Responsibilities	Parent/Carer's Rights, Roles & Responsibilities
<p>Rights:</p> <p>To work in an environment that promotes a culture of mutual respect, equality of opportunity and inclusion.</p> <p>Safe and secure working environment with appropriate training to meet the needs of the young people in their care.</p> <p>Emotional health and wellbeing promoted and supported by colleagues.</p> <p>Access to ongoing PD including Addressing Bullying in Schools Act 2016, Addressing Bullying Policy, legislative processes & systems to report, record and respond to all allegations/incidents of bullying type behaviour and wider SBEW training.</p> <p>Informed, consulted on, and 'have a say' within Addressing Bullying Policy review, preventative curriculum content, support/intervention plans and procedures.</p> <p>Kept informed and updated in relation to children and young people's progress and wellbeing.</p> <p>To know the identified individual needs (including SEND and medical needs) of the young people in their care and the support plans to address these needs.</p> <p>Participate in decision making processes that concern them – safeguarding, support/intervention plans (BCAF, IEP, RRAP, Calm Plan), preventative curriculum strategies and behaviour reflection.</p>	<p>Rights:</p> <p>Emotional health and wellbeing promoted and supported through a preventative curriculum.</p> <p>Respected and included within a safe, diverse school community, where they are valued, listened to, and acknowledged by all.</p> <p>Have equal opportunities and effective partnerships for positive learning and social experiences with school staff, children, and young people.</p> <p>To support and interventions to address verbal, emotional, psychological, and physical socially unacceptable/bullying type behaviours.</p> <p>Readily available school safeguarding and SEND policies including Addressing Bullying Policy, clear understanding outlining processes/systems to report, record and respond to allegations/incidents of Bullying Type Behaviour.</p> <p>Access to pastoral staff to share concerns and discuss appropriate and timely support and intervention, which incorporate SEN, Nurture, Trauma Informed approaches and Restorative Practices etc.</p> <p>Relational and solution focused support whether displaying or experiencing socially unacceptable/bullying type behaviour.</p> <p>Individual needs to be addressed through the suite of pastoral/safeguarding policies.</p> <p>Timely referrals to EA services (e.g. EWS, LITs, CPSS, Educational Psychology) and external organisations, support groups and agencies (e.g. CAMHS, Family Hub, G.P., PSNI, HSCT etc) to address BTB when and where appropriate.</p> <p>Opportunities for involvement in peer support and/or mentoring.</p>	<p>Rights:</p> <p>Their child/young person receives a quality learning experience.</p> <p>Their child/young person is taught in a relational, nurturing, and safe environment.</p> <p>Their child/young person is treated fairly and with respect.</p> <p>A school environment that promotes effective partnerships and positive relations with school staff.</p> <p>Readily available school safeguarding and SEND policies including Addressing Bullying Policy, clear understanding outlining processes/systems to report, record and respond to allegations/incidents of Bullying Type Behaviour.</p> <p>Consulted regarding school policies including Addressing Bullying Policy development and review processes.</p> <p>Kept informed and updated about their child's/young person's progress, wellbeing, relevant needs/concerns and/or instances as outlined in the Addressing Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Participate in decision making processes that concern their child/young person – support/intervention plans (BCAF, IEP, RRAP, Calm Plan), preventative curriculum strategies, behaviour reflection and external supports accessed.</p> <p>Listened to, valued, respected, and responded to sensitively, in a timely manner as outlined in the Addressing Bullying Policy.</p>
<p>Staff Rights, Roles & Responsibilities cont'd</p>	<p>Children & Young People's Rights, Roles & Responsibilities cont'd</p>	<p>Parent/Carer's Rights, Roles & Responsibilities cont'd</p>

Addressing Bullying Policy

<p>Roles & Responsibilities:</p> <p>Safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people.</p> <p>Encourage socially acceptable behaviour within an inclusive, empathetic whole school environment.</p> <p>Create opportunities to celebrate success, diversity, and equality to create a positive ethos.</p> <p>Plan and deliver an ongoing preventative curriculum, which is updated to address need.</p> <p>Act in a professional manner to model, teach and develop children/young people's interpersonal and emotional skills.</p> <p>Undertake Addressing Bullying in Schools training and support as part of PD.</p> <p>Co-develop, implement, and promote your Addressing Bullying Policy to enable easy access for all clear understanding of processes/systems for all and an opportunity to seek clarification from Pastoral lead staff if necessary.</p> <p>Review your Addressing Bullying Policy with all stakeholders within your school community, at least every 4 years or in response to concerns raised/need.</p> <p>Keep digital records of Bullying Type Behaviour allegations and incidents using the Bullying Concern Assessment Form (BCAF).</p> <p>Build effective partnerships and positive relations with and between children, young people, parents/carers and staff (including explicit approaches to connect with vulnerable and hard-to-reach families).</p> <p>Take timely and appropriate action to address children, young people, parent/carer, and staff concerns.</p> <p>Use relational and evidence informed approaches e.g. SEN, Nurture, Trauma Informed and Restorative Practice etc to support all interventions for both those displaying and experiencing socially unacceptable/bullying type behaviour.</p> <p>Address individual needs through the suite of pastoral/safeguarding/SEND policies.</p> <p>Work in partnership with and make timely referrals to EA services (e.g. EWS, LITs, CPSS, Educational Psychology) and external organisations, support groups and agencies (e.g. CAMHS, Family Hub, G.P., PSNI, HSCT etc) to address BTB when and where appropriate.</p> <p>Maintain effective communication using agreed and appropriate channels with and between students, parents/carers, colleagues and Board of Governors.</p>	<p>Roles & Responsibilities:</p> <p>Report allegations and/or bullying type concerns via the designated channels and platforms e.g. talk to a trusted adult or through confidential digital platforms.</p> <p>Request and engage with appropriate support both within and outside school via e.g. the designated staff member as outlined in the Addressing Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Contribute to learning and personal development targets on the e.g. BCAF, Calm Plan, PLP, RRAP with support.</p> <p>Endeavor to constructively engage with reflection, support and intervention offered.</p> <p>Act in a respectful, kind, empathetic manner i.e. <i>students don't have to be friends with everyone but have to be friendly.</i></p> <p>Reflect on, assess, and review individual progress with school staff, parents/guardians, and external supports in context of appropriate support plans e.g. BCAF, Calm Plan, PLP, RRAP.</p>	<p>Roles & Responsibilities:</p> <p>Raise concerns with staff in a timely and appropriate manner, using the school's reporting system as outlined in their Addressing Bullying Policy.</p> <p>Respond timely to staff communications regarding bullying type concerns.</p> <p>Attend support and intervention meetings to agree next steps and plans moving forward.</p> <p>Support the implementation of agreed plans e.g. BCAF, Calm Plan, PLP, RRAP.</p> <p>Communicate directly with school using agreed channels, respecting the needs and confidentiality of all involved.</p> <p>Encourage their child/young person to model the school's ethos and values.</p> <p>Engage with wider services and agencies to support you child or young person as required.</p> <p>Refer any concerns regarding the school management of bullying type concerns through the school complaints procedure.</p>
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Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour in Schools



PARENT GUIDE

What is Bullying Type Behaviour?

The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act 2016 (NI)

Bullying type behaviour exists in all communities including schools. To respond to this, a new law commenced on 1st September 2021 in Northern Ireland. It provides schools with one legal definition to assess all reported alleged incidents of bullying type behaviour in schools.

The law states that in all schools:
"Bullying" includes, but isn't limited to, repeated verbal, written or electronic communication, by a pupil(s) against another pupil(s) that is intended to cause physical or emotional harm. This also includes leaving someone out on purpose."

To support a relational and solution focused approach, we no longer use the words 'bully' or 'victim'.

Instead we talk about:
'pupil displaying bullying type behaviour'
 AND
'pupil experiencing bullying type behaviour'.

Behaviour that does not meet TRIP is referred to as *socially unacceptable behaviour*.

Whether *socially unacceptable* OR *bullying type behaviour*, school will support all young people involved to address the behaviour effectively.

Signs that my child could be experiencing bullying type behaviour

Your child may behave differently or show some of the following signs if experiencing bullying type behaviour.



Preventative Measures

Schools aim to create and maintain a safe, nurturing, learning environment. Measures are put in place to protect and support those children and young people experiencing or displaying bullying type behaviour to tackle the problem effectively.

All members of the school community have a responsibility to prevent and address bullying type behaviour, whether in person and/or online, as outlined in the school Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour Policy.

School staff work with pupils, parents and carers to agree a relational, solution focused plan to support those experiencing the behaviour and a separate plan for those displaying the behaviour.

The legislation enables schools to address online bullying type behaviours occurring outside school, and/or on the journey to and from school where there is impact on the child's learning.

When is it Bullying Type Behaviour?



When a concern of bullying type behaviour is shared, staff will clarify facts, perceptions and the individual needs of all pupils involved.

Staff will assess the reported incident using TRIP criteria and identify appropriate interventions aimed at repairing relationships.

Socially unacceptable behaviour becomes bullying type behaviour when, on the basis of the information gathered, TRIP criteria are confirmed:

Targeted

When the behaviour is **TARGETED** at a specific pupil or group of pupils.

Repeated

When the behaviour is **REPEATED** over a period of time.

Intentional

When the behaviour is deliberately **INTENDED** to cause harm.

Psychological/Physical

When the behaviour causes **PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL** or **PHYSICAL** harm.

A significant One-off Incident can be considered bullying type behaviour if included in the school policy e.g. where a digital communication has been intentionally shared widely to cause harm.

What should I do if my child is experiencing bullying type behaviour?

- Stay calm, listen and reassure your child.
- Report concerns to school staff directly.
- Agree a support plan with staff and your child.
- Review and amend the plan with your child and school staff in response to outcome at agreed intervals.

How do I report my concern?

- Reporting procedures are outlined in your school policy. Report your concern as soon as possible.
- Arrange an appointment to meet pastoral staff.
- Outline details of your concern and give staff time to gather information and consider supports.

Details of concern are shared

Staff record the concern electronically e.g. may complete a Bullying Concern Assessment Form (BCAF) for all pupils involved.

Behaviour assessed against the legal definition and TRIP criteria activated. Parents/Carers informed.

Legal definition of bullying type behaviour NOT met

Socially unacceptable behaviour is supported using e.g. Positive Behaviour Policy and safeguarding Policy.

Legal definition of bullying type behaviour IS met

Bullying type behaviour is supported using Addressing Bullying in School Policy.

Relational supports for all pupils involved are agreed, implemented, tracked and reviewed to determine if the situation has improved or if further support is required that may involve other agencies.

Complaints
Parents and carers can access the school's Complaints Policy on the school website or on request from the school office.

Imbalance of Power, Motivation and Methods

When TRIP is fully evidenced, schools can consider the non statutory, **imbalance of power**, as a criteria to confirm their decision.

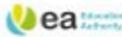
Motivation

Bullying type behaviour in school usually involves a breakdown in peer relationships. Motivation can be related to vulnerable, or minority groups based on e.g. *race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, age, appearance, child looked after (CLA), community background, cultural, family circumstances and political affiliation.*

Method

Bullying type behaviour can present as relational, verbal or physical and can take place online or offline.

Be aware that only the Northern Ireland legal definition applies to our schools. Further information and advice.






www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/addressing-bullying-schools-act



<http://safer-schools-ni.co.uk/>






hsca.ni.net



hsca.ni.net



Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour in Schools



POST PRIMARY

What is Bullying Type Behaviour?

The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act 2016 (NI)

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Staff will assess the reported incident using TRIP criteria and identify appropriate interventions aimed at repairing relationships.

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Targeted

When the behaviour is TARGETED at a specific pupil or group of pupils.

Repeated

When the behaviour is REPEATED over a period of time.

Intentional

When the behaviour is deliberately INTENDED to cause harm.

Psychological/Physical

When the behaviour causes PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL or PHYSICAL harm.

A significant One-off Incident can be considered bullying type behaviour if included in the school policy e.g. where a digital communication has been intentionally shared widely to cause harm.

Why does bullying type behaviour happen?

Bullying type behaviour in school usually involves a breakdown in peer relationships. Motivation can be related to vulnerable, or minority groups based on e.g. race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, age, appearance, child looked after (CLA), community backgrounds, cultural, family circumstances and political affiliation.

How might bullying type behaviour present?

Bullying type behaviour can present as relational, verbal, or physical and can take place online and offline.

Imbalance of Power

When assessing a concern, schools can consider if some pupils involved appear more powerful than others.

What to do if you need help?

Speak to an Adult You Trust

Speak to a family member, Form Tutor, Head of Year, Head of Pastoral Care or other safe adult who will listen and agree a support plan.

Keep a Record

Keep a record of what's been going on. Report inappropriate online communication to the social media company and block the user. Don't reply.

Identify opportunities to meet new friends. Try morning, lunch or after school activities.

You may want to contact a free, confidential helpline e.g. Childline 0800 11 11

Stay Positive

You have done the right thing in coming forward.

Focus on the positives in your life.

Celebrate your unique qualities.

Find healthy ways to relieve stress such as exercise, meditation, positive self-talk, join a sports club and do things you enjoy.

Other things to do in school:

Speak to your student council about setting up a peer support scheme; or a student diversity, equity and inclusion committee.

What will happen when I report my concern?

Pupils can report concerns confidentially. Staff will support concerns relationally in line with statutory guidance.

Concerns are reported to school staff.

Staff gather information and record the concern digitally e.g. they may use a Bullying Concern Assessment Form (BCAF).

The legal definition and TRIP criteria used to assess behaviour. Parents/Carers consulted.

Legal definition of bullying type behaviour NOT met.

Legal definition of bullying type behaviour IS met.

Socially unacceptable behaviour identified is supported using Positive

Behaviour, Safeguarding and Pastoral Policies.

Bullying type behaviour identified and supported using the school Addressing Bullying Policy.

Solution orientated supports for all pupils involved agreed, implemented, tracked and reviewed to determine if the situation has improved or if further support is required that may involve other agencies.

If a friend shares that they are being bullied?

Thank your friend for trusting you and listen without interruption.

Mirroring. Focus solely on what you are being told and show you are listening without giving your opinion.

Use Body Language. e.g. nod, make eye contact to show you are listening.

Ask questions and don't rush the conversation as it is important that your friend feels heard and supported.

Approach a staff member if you are concerned about your friend's safety and wellbeing. Encourage them to speak to an appropriate adult.

Be aware that only the Northern Ireland legal definition applies to our schools. Further information and advice.



Health Agency | 100 Public Health Agency (hazat.net)

South Wellbeing Hub - Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPP) (swbh.net)

Appendix 9 - BOG Proforma

Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016: Reporting to Board of Governors Pro-forma

Reporting timeframe and date e.g. Term 1 2024-25 _____

Staff member reporting _____ **Date of meeting** _____

Number of allegations of bullying-type behaviour	
Number of cases that did not meet TRIP criteria	
Number of cases that met TRIP criteria	
Number of cases ongoing following confirmation of TRIP criteria	
Number of cases resolved following confirmation of TRIP criteria	
Identified methods of confirmed bullying type behaviour and number of each e.g. Physical - 3	
Potential motivation for bullying type behaviour and number of each identified e.g. Racism - 2	
Support and interventions in place for both pupils displaying and experiencing bullying type behaviour. (Yes/No)	
Emerging trends identified and how these are being responded to.	
Areas identified as priority for School Development Planning.	



Student Bullying Concern Form



Name: _____ **Year Group:** _____

Information of the bullying concern. Including other students names and year group, details of the bullying taking place and who have you spoken to about this?

Place in Concern Box or hand in to any member of staff