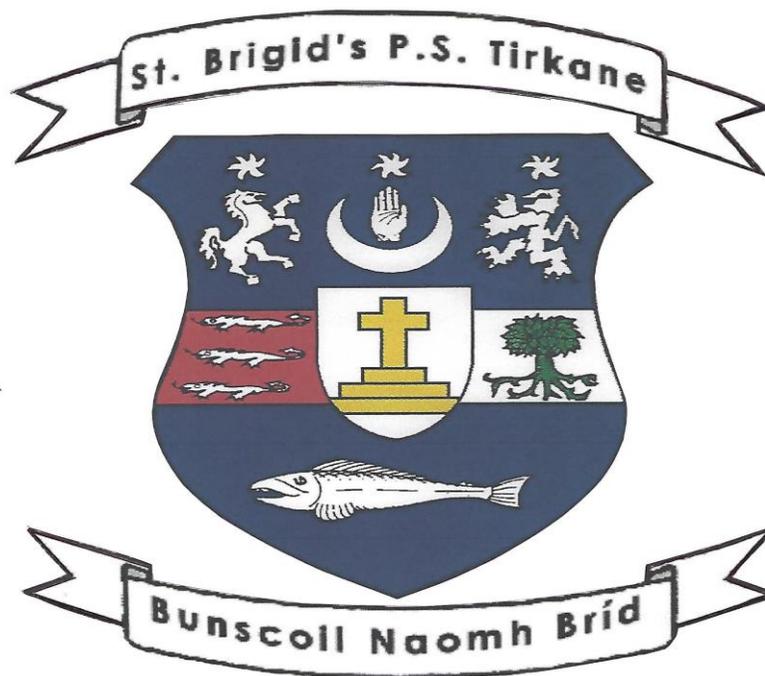


St Brigid's Primary School Tirkane/ Bunscoil Naomh Bríd Tír Chiana



Anti-Bullying Policy

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Date Ratified: | September 2025 |
| Date of Review: | September 2028 |

Bullying can be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the pupil experiencing bullying behaviour to defend him or herself.

NIABF (Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum) defines bullying as the repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.

Bullying can take many forms, but the main types are:
Physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft)
Verbal (e.g. threats or name-calling)
Emotional (e.g. spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)
Cyber (e.g. offensive texts/e-mails/notes/misuse of internet facilities including camera phones or making nasty phone calls)

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school. All members of staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring, and we will take the following steps to try to stop it happening.

PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

The strategies in place in St Brigid's Primary School Tirkane / Bunscoil Naomh Bríd Tír Chiana are based on the guidance material in the DENI document- Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour.

- Pupils are supervised at all times within the school day.
- Pupils work and play in a safe and suitable environment.
- All staff are vigilant that no child is constantly isolated.
- The use of mobile phones by pupils in school is prohibited unless consent has been given by the Principal.
- Classroom duties and responsibilities will be shared out to the pupils in a way which promotes fairness and co-operation.
- Staff will show an example of courtesy and co-operation with each other.
- Positive behaviour that promotes respect for everyone will be encouraged at all times.
- Encouragement, praise and positive feedback to pupils will be encouraged by all members of staff in promoting positive behaviours.

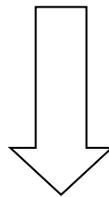
- Within the teaching of the PDMU curriculum from P1-P7 the pupils will develop in a range of knowledge and skills which promote the development of the whole person.
- Pupils will be recognised for their positive behaviours and attitudes towards others in the form of receiving badges at assembly.
- Where possible, Circle-Time, PDMU, Class and School Councils will be incorporated into the curriculum so that pupils have an opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and share views and feelings.
- When a child has a concern they will be listened to by the person whom they have confided in and then appropriate action taken.
- If a parent has a concern about their child in school he/she may contact Class Teacher/Principal.
- Information sessions will be given for the parents of incoming pupils.
- Each parent has a copy of the Child Protection (inc. Anti-Bullying) Policy.
- School uniform will be encouraged to be worn at all times.
- Children are permitted to come to school dressed for PE on PE days.
- Parent Teacher Meetings where academic progress, social and personal development can be discussed.
- At Assemblies, School Productions and Sports Day pupils will have an opportunity to exhibit their talents so that everyone can appreciate that we all have different talents.
- The school has in operation: Suggestion Boxes/ Worry Boxes in classes and in the porch. Parents are encouraged to share suggestions.
- Each morning will begin with a prayer or a thought for the day and each afternoon will end with a prayer.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF BULLYING

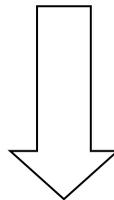
- Any complaint by a parent that their child is, or may be, being bullied will be fully investigated.
- The child who is being bullied will be protected and reassured that it is not their fault.
- A parent making a complaint about incidents of bullying will have a response from the school within one week.
- If a child is showing distress or general unhappiness and bullying is suspected that child will be encouraged to talk to a member of staff.
- Where an incident of bullying has been detected by a class teacher, supervisor or any other adult in charge; it will be reported to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (in the absence of the Designated Teacher) who will report the matter to the Principal.
- The Principal will speak to the pupils concerned and in consultation with the Designated Teacher will plan a course of action (**RESPOND, RESOLVE & RESTORE**) This may involve contacting parents/guardians of the person displaying bullying behaviour and the target.
- The situation will continue to be monitored by all concerned and hope that nothing further arises.
- If there is a reoccurrence of the bullying the Principal will inform and consult with all parents concerned and decide upon an appropriate action. The sanctions to be taken will depend on the seriousness of the case, but may include loss of privileges or going on daily/weekly report.
- The Principal will keep the Board of Governors informed from the above stage onward and together they will decide the next course of action. This may mean consultation with an outside agency with a view to determining the cause of the bullying and an opportunity for the bully to receive help.
- If all other attempts to resolve the situation have failed, suspension and expulsion will have to be considered following the guidance from CCMS.

St Brigid's Primary School Tirkane / Bunscoil Naomh Bríd
Tír Chiana - PASTORAL CARE: CHILD PROTECTION
HOW A PUPIL CAN EXPRESS A CONCERN IN SCHOOL

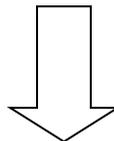
I am worried about something that is happening to me or to someone that I know



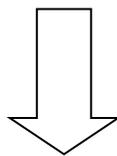
I can talk to my class teacher or any adult that works in our school



I can talk to any teacher



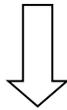
I can talk to Múinteoir Clare O'Kane or Mrs O'Hanlon



I can call Childline 08001111/ Text Free 0900400222 or NSPCC

Pastoral Care in Schools Child Protection- Staff Procedures

I have a concern about a child's safety/welfare or a disclosure has been made to me



- Listen and reassure the child but do **not** investigate
- Make no promises of secrecy
- Respond-only to ensure that the child is safe and secure
- Record objectively the concern/disclosure as soon as possible including date and time



**Report concern/disclosure to the
Designated Teacher:
Múinteoir Clare O'Kane**



Where necessary you will be informed of outcomes

Pastoral Care in Schools
Child Protection
How a Parent can Express a Concern

I have a concern about my/a child



I can talk to the class teacher



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Múinteoir Clare O'Kane



The Principal and Safeguarding team will always be informed of any concerns
Child Protection matters within the school



If I am still concerned, I can talk/*write* to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors/contact the Ombudsman/NIPSO



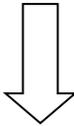
At any time, I can talk to the social worker (by telephoning 028 7936 6840) or Magherafelt Police Station and ask for the local CARE unit.

Procedures for Parents: Arranging an Appointment to Meet a Teacher

If you would like an appointment with a teacher use the following procedure



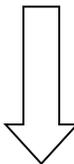
Make contact with the school



Ask to speak to the Principal
Suitable times are:
8.30am – 9.00am 3.30pm – 4.30pm



Explain your concern to the Principal



Principal in consultation with the Class Teacher will arrange a suitable time for a meeting for all concerned

**If the matter in question is too urgent for above procedures the
Principal will meet with the parent as soon as possible.**