



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Incidental Inspection

Note on school measures to prevent and tackle bullying

School name	S N Mhuire
School address	Barntown Co. Wexford
Roll number	17913Q
Date of inspection	04-04-2022

1. Introduction

In the course of the incidental inspection conducted in this school, the inspector 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 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:

- The creation of a warm and safe school environment in which children can express their feelings and have a strong sense of belonging is a priority of the school. The school is inclusive of pupils from different backgrounds and abilities and promotes the talents and dispositions of all. Interactions & relationships between members of the school community are based on respect, care and wellbeing.
- The school's anti-bullying, code of behaviour, child protection, acceptable internet usage and Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) policies are used to underpin the creation of a positive school culture. Its SPHE policy has been reviewed and updated and the school is progressing the implementation of the *Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice*.
- The teaching of SPHE includes discreet lessons on anti-bullying and friendships. There are individual displays of work based on the Code of Behaviour in each classroom.
- The community garda visits senior classes yearly to discuss issues in relation to anti-bullying. The school has a 'buddy system' in place to support pupils. Appropriate supervision is provided for the pupils throughout the school day. A "Safer Internet Day" which includes webinars on safe internet use for pupils from 1st class to 6th class, is delivered each year.
- Committees such as those of the students' council, Green Flag and Active School formalise provision for the inclusion of the pupil voice into appropriate decision making in the school. They provide a means of structured feedback from pupils on different aspects of school life.
- Weekly assemblies promote the achievements of pupils and classes and reinforce the Golden Rules. The 'Class of the Week' award is presented at assemblies and is linked to the positive behaviours pupils exhibit and the ways they interact with each other. All classes take turns to present at assembly.
- Staff wellbeing is a priority for the school. Collaborative practices among staff, good communication and a strong sense of community are promoted and encouraged. Management ensures colleagues feel supported in their daily work and information on the Employee Assistance Service (EAS) scheme is shared among staff.
- There is an emphasis on positive communication between school and home through formal and informal means including, monthly newsletters, the weekly 'School Story' and the use of digital communication platforms to celebrate class achievements by teachers.
- As part of the promotion of good relations between all partners in the school community, a very active and supportive parents' association organises talks for parents on topics of particular interest, including providing a talk on anti-bullying by a speaker from the National Parents' Council (NPC).

- Display boards have been positioned outside of all classrooms to promote children's written work and artwork. Other display boards showcase the school's whole school promotion of the Golden Rules with positive slogans and examples of work from monthly award winners.

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)*.

- 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.
- Incidents of bullying behaviour are recorded using the template provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*
- 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)*.
- 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.
- 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 aspects 1,2,4 and 5 above. In order to meet the requirements in relation to implementing aspect 3, the school needs to take the following action:

- The board of management minutes should confirm that all bullying cases reported to the principal or deputy principal since the previous report to the board 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)*.