



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Incidental Inspection

Note on school measures to prevent and tackle bullying

School name	Ballindaggin N S
School address	Ballindaggin Enniscorthy Co. Wexford
Roll number	15962T
Date of inspection	24-03-2022

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:

- The school ethos is to focus on pupils' strengths and to catch them being good. Teachers model respect in their interactions with each other, pupils and parents. They have high expectations for pupils' behaviour and they communicate these to pupils regularly. The teachers have created and use an expectation matrix with pupils when discussing their behaviour. Teachers use strategies from the Incredible Years to support positive school culture.
- The principal meets the pupils at the gate each morning and welcomes them to school each day.
- All teachers are reminded to monitor pupils and report any concerns to the relevant class teacher.
- The school prioritises communication with parents. There is regular two-way communication; updates to parents and parenting classes are offered to parents periodically.
- The school uses some of its special education teaching provision to support pupils with social skills programmes in order to progress their ability to engage positively with their peers.
- The school explicitly teaches pupils how to communicate if they are unhappy with interactions between peers. Pupils are encouraged to communicate any issues to teachers.
- Whole-school initiatives such as Friendship week, Grandparents Day, Maths for Fun encourage pupils to enjoy school and develop a sense of community in school.
- The school has a reward system to support wellbeing.
- There is a good level of supervision on yard to monitor pupils' behaviour at break times.
- Staff morale and positive staff relationships are valued and time is given for social interaction.

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*.