

Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

The Board of Management of Portlaw NS has adopted the following policy to prevent and address bullying behaviour.

This policy fully complies with the requirements of *Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2024*.

The board of management acknowledges that bullying behaviour interferes with the rights of the child as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We all, as a school community, have a responsibility to work together to prevent and address bullying behaviour and to deal with the negative impact of bullying behaviour.

We are committed to ensuring that all students who attend our school are kept safe from harm and that the wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of everything that we do. We recognise the negative impact that bullying behaviour can have on the lives of our students and we are fully committed to preventing and addressing bullying behaviour.

We confirm that we will, in accordance with our obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the harassment of students or staff on any of the nine grounds specified: gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is defined in *Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying* and *Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* as targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society. The detailed definition is provided in Chapter 2 of the *Bí Cineálta* procedures.

Each school is required to develop and implement a *Bí Cineálta* policy that sets out how the school community prevents and addresses bullying behaviour. Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour that is not bullying behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour.

Section A: Development/review of our Bí Cineálta policy to prevent and address bullying behaviour

All members of our school community were provided with the opportunity to input into the development/review of this policy.

	Date consulted	Method of consultation
School Staff	25.03.2025	Full staff half-day
Students	September 2025	Changemaker Council Meetings and in-classroom feedback sessions
Parents	May 2025	Online Survey
Board of Management	May 2025	Board Meeting
Wider school community as appropriate, for example, bus drivers	June 2025	
Date policy was approved: 26.5.2025		
Date policy was last reviewed: 26.5.2025		

Section B: Preventing Bullying Behaviour

This section sets out the prevention strategies that will be used by the school. These include strategies specifically aimed at preventing online bullying behaviour, homophobic and transphobic bullying behaviour, racist bullying behaviour, sexist bullying behaviour and sexual harassment as appropriate (see Chapter 5 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

Portlaw NS believes that a cooperative, engaged learning environment, which includes a focus on wellbeing, resilience, friendship and resolving conflict before it escalates, is the most effective way to prevent bullying. We listed the relevant strategies and approaches under four headings;

Culture and Environment;

Trauma informed schooling

Nurture Room

Outdoor walks and classroom

Gardening

Speaker – local and expert

Friendly and welcoming relationships between adults, children and the wider community

Welcoming classroom environments

Sports program; GAA, soccer, athletics, basketball, cycling, running,

Chess team

Change Maker; Green Schools and Student Council

Emotional awareness and Regulatory strategies

Movement breaks,
Now and Then strategies
Choosing time
Teacher and SNA collaboration
SET and class teacher collaboration
Themed Weeks; Maths, Science, Bí Cinealtas etc
Assemblies monthly
Diversity themed day/week
Breakfast Club
HSCL
Co-operative games
Infant's outings and Teddy Bears picnic
Stop Think Do from junior infants to second class

Relationships and Partnerships

Education and Wellbeing Committee – WWETB, HSCL, Principal, Foróige, Portlaw
Community Resource Hub, TYRE project, Little Buddies Creche.
Parents Association
Grandparents Day
Local Library
Tidy Towns
Heritage Centre
Community resource hub
St. Vincent de Paul
Foróige
NEPS
Oide
Local sports clubs
Parish and Fr. Francis
Secondary schools
Taisce
Arts Council – Creative School
Heritage Ireland
County Council – pitch opposite the school and road access
SETU
Fresh today
Local retailers
Board of Management
Parents in the classrooms for literacy and numeracy
In-school Play Therapy
In-school mindfulness sessions

Curriculum – Teaching and Learning

Team Teaching
Weaving Wellbeing
Music Generation
Zones of Regulation
Stop Think Do
Gymnastics
Buddy Reading
Lámh
Peace Proms

DEIS literacy trips
Woodwork projects and SET intervention
SET; Literacy Liftoff, DCode, Station Teaching,.....
Accelerated Reading
Training and CPD for new curriculum roll outs
SPHE and RSE programs
Building Bridges of Understanding
Sensory Corridors
Movement Breaks
Brain Box Transition program for 6th class
Smart Moves ISPCC transition program for 6th class

Policy and Planning

Child Safeguarding
Bí Cineálta
Homework Policy
CPD – as per school priorities
Job Sharing Policy
Healthy eating
Admissions policy
Code of Behaviour and Behaviours of Concern Policy
Supervision Policy
SPHE and RSE Policy
Curriculum Plans
Learning support and Assessment policies
Guest Speakers; Transitions, RSE, Cybersafety
Gen Free School

The school has the following supervision and monitoring policies in place to prevent and address bullying behaviour (see Chapter 5 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

Child Safeguarding
Supervision Policy
Intimate Care Policy
Code of Behaviour and Behaviours of Concern Policy
SET Policy

Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour

The teacher(s) with responsibility for addressing bullying behaviour is (are) as follows:

The class teacher of the perpetrator and school principal or deputy principal.

When bullying behaviour occurs, the school will:

- ensure that the student experiencing bullying behaviour is heard and reassured
- seek to ensure the privacy of those involved
- conduct all conversations with sensitivity
- consider the age and ability of those involved
- listen to the views of the student who is experiencing the bullying behaviour as to how best to address the situation
- take action in a timely manner
- inform parents of those involved

The steps that will be taken by the school to determine if bullying behaviour has occurred, the approaches taken to address the bullying behaviour and to review progress are as follows (see Chapter 6 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

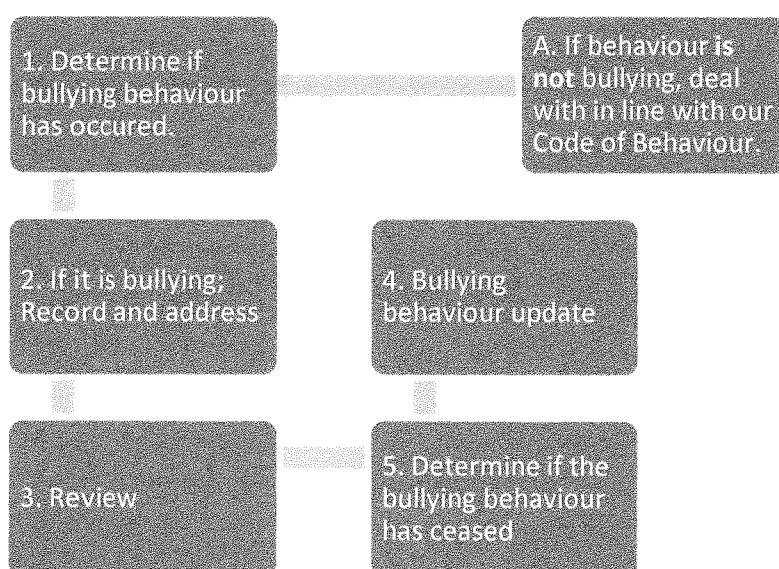
Portlaw NS is a Catholic school and as such our approach to bullying and conflict in general is based on dignity, resolution and reconciliation.

Identifying if bullying has occurred;

The teacher will consider what happened, where it happened, when it happened and why it happened.

Each pupil involved will be engaged with individually and if a group was involved a group meeting will be held after the individual meetings. Pupils may be asked to write their accounts.

We will ensure that all parties are listened to. We will conduct conversations with sensitivity and where possible observing privacy. We will act in a timely manner and inform the parents/guardians of those involved.



To address the bullying behaviour and to review progress we will complete the document below;

1. Form of Bullying (2.5 p.21)	2. Type of Bullying (2.7 p.24)
<i>Physical, Verbal, Written, Extortion, Exclusion, Relational, Online.</i>	<i>Disablist, Exceptionally able, Gender identity, Homo/Transphobic, Physical appearance, Racist, poverty, religious, sexist, sexual harassment.</i>

3. Where and When bullying occurred	4a. Date of your initial engagement with pupil; 4b. Date of your initial engagement with parent/guardian;
5. Date for Review with parents and pupils to see if bullying behaviour has ceased (within 20 days);	6. Any engagement with external services;
7. Views of pupils regarding the actions to be taken to address bullying behaviour; <i>(continue on additional page)</i>	
8. Views of parents regarding the actions to be taken to address bullying behaviour; <i>(continue on additional page)</i>	

The school will use the following approaches to support those who experience, witness and display bullying behaviour (see Chapter 6 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):
Class teacher, SET and principal discuss each individual case. Whole class intervention around friendship and anti-bullying programmes If necessary one to one support for victim and perpetrator of bullying to further understand the issues and build self-esteem and resilience. Regular communication between school and parents/guardians. Well supervised school spaces at all times in keeping with Supervision Policy Senior management use a mixture of direct sanctions such as detention and elements of restorative practice to educate and empower the pupils involved in bullying
Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class Prescribing extra work/ writing out the story of what happened Loss of privileges; pupils will only be removed from school teams or planned trips if the misbehaviour occurred in this environment. Removal from yard for their own or others safety.

All bullying behaviour will be recorded. This will include the type of behaviour, where and when it took place, and the date of the engagement with students and parents. The actions and supports agreed to address bullying behaviour will be documented. If the bullying behaviour is a child protection concern the matter will be addressed without delay in accordance with *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

Section D: Oversight

The principal will present an update on bullying behaviour at each board of management meeting. This update will include the number of incidents of bullying behaviour that have been reported since the last meeting, the number of ongoing incidents and the total number of incidents since the beginning of the school year. Where incidents of bullying behaviour have occurred, the principal will also provide a verbal update which will include where relevant, information relating to trends and patterns identified, strategies used to address the bullying behaviour and any wider strategies to prevent and address bullying behaviour where relevant. This update does not contain personal or identifying information. See Chapter 7 of the *Bí Cineálta* procedures.

This policy is available to our school community on the school's website and in hard copy on request. A student friendly version of this policy is displayed in the school and is also available on our website and in hard copy on request.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed, following input from our school community, each calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this policy refers.

Signed: Mary Dunne Date: 26/5/2025
(Chairperson of board of management)

Signed: J. S. Date: 26.5.26.
(Principal)