

ST JOSEPH'S BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL NEWRY

Anti Bullying Policy



Anti Bullying Policy:

“Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence (physical and mental). They must be kept safe from harm and be given proper care by those looking after them”.

(United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Student Support Officer
Martin Mc Greevy

(1) Rationale:

- In keeping with St Joseph’s responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils we will carry out this duty through our pastoral care provision, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment within which bullying will not be tolerated.
- St Joseph’s will put in place an open transparent supportive pastoral system which will deal with bullying.

(2) Definition

- “Bullying has been described as a wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone else (Bullying: A Positive Response : D Tattum &G Herbert)
- “All bullying is aggression, either physical or verbal although not all aggression is necessarily bullying. Any behaviour which is the illegitimate use of power in order to hurt others is bullying behaviour”. (Johnstone, Munn and Edwards)
- We can identify the following as bullying: Physical Attacks; Verbal Abuse; Threatening Looks; Exclusion (situation so that a pupil(s) are left out or isolated.) Extortion(demanding money or personal property under pain of threat...) Cyber-bullying

(3) Aims of the policy:

- 1.To promote a secure and happy environment free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behaviour.
- 2.To take positive action to prevent bullying from occurring through a clear school policy on personal and social development.

3.To inform pupils and parents of the school's expectations and to foster a productive partnership, which helps maintain a bully-free environment.

4.To deal with bullying incidents quickly and effectively.

5.To make staff aware of their role in fostering the knowledge and attitudes which will be required to achieve the above aims.

(4) Achieving aims:

St Joseph's believe in valuing people as individuals and their right to a bully-free environment.

The stated aims will be further achieved through the school's policies and programmes already in practice.

(5) Guidelines for implementation :

Where an incident of bullying is reported staff will respond immediately. Any complaint made by a victim or by a parent that their child is, or may be, being bullied will be fully investigated and appropriate action taken.

A parent making a complaint will have a personal reply from the school within *one week*.

1.Every incident will be responded to and recorded.

2.Both sides will be listened to either separately or together.

The situation will be discussed calmly. Pupils will be encouraged to find a solution to the problem which is acceptable to both parties.

3.The victim and the bully will be supported.

4.The incident will be recorded to include the nature of the bullying, those involved and the resolution.

The response to and the sanction imposed will depend on the seriousness of the case and behaviour(s) of those involved will be monitored until staff are satisfied that the problem has stopped.

Both sets of parents will be informed of the school's actions and regular contact with parents will be encouraged.

(6) Monitoring and Evaluation:

- The Board of Governors will monitor the anti bullying policy.
- The school pastoral system will monitor the policy in action.
- The Student Support Officer will liaise with SMT to ensure the policy is evaluated.

