

Anti-Bullying Summary Policy

St Patrick's College – Creating a Safe and Respectful School



Why This Matters

Bullying can harm mental health and well-being.

At St Patrick's College, we work together to make sure bullying-type behaviour is **never acceptable**. Everyone – staff, students, and parents – has a role in keeping our school safe and inclusive.

What is Bullying-Type Behaviour?

Under the **Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016**, bullying is defined as:

The repeated use of **verbal, written, or electronic communication, or any other act (including omission)**, by a pupil or group of pupils **against another pupil or group, with the intention of causing physical or emotional harm**.

So simply put:

Bullying is **repeated behaviour** intended to cause harm, whether physical or emotional. It can include:

- Hurtful words or messages (spoken, written, or online)
- Physical actions
- Omission (deliberate exclusion from groups or activities) can also be bullying if it causes psychological harm. Pupils do not have to be friends, but they must be **friendly**.

This means bullying can include spoken words, messages, social media posts, physical actions, or even deliberate exclusion.

How Do We Know It's Bullying? – TRIP

Use the **TRIP** test:

- **T – Targeted:** Is someone being singled out?
- **R – Repeated:** Has it happened more than once?
- **I – Intentional:** Was it meant to hurt?
- **P – Power Imbalance:** Does one person/group have more power?

If all four apply, it's bullying.

One-Off Incidents

Sometimes, a single incident can be treated like bullying by the school.

When might this happen?

- If the incident is very serious
- If it looks like it was planned

- If it causes harm or upset to someone or the school community
- If the people involved have had problems before
- If similar things have happened with the same people before

Online behaviour:

Even one message or post can count as bullying if it is shared or viewed many times without permission.

Where Does the Policy Apply?

- On school grounds during the day
- On trips or extra-curricular activities
- Travelling to and from school
- At off-site school events
- Outside school if it affects the school day

Our School Values

We believe in **dignity, diversity, and inclusion**. We aim to:

- Build self-worth and confidence
- Promote respect and responsibility
- Support learning and well-being
- Work with parents as partners

The school is committed to a **preventative, relational, and restorative approach**, ensuring all pupils feel safe, respected, and celebrated.

Rights and Responsibilities

At St Patrick's College, everyone has:

- **The right** to learn in a safe and supportive environment.
- **The responsibility** to help stop and deal with bullying behaviour.

Who Makes Sure This Happens?

Key staff who oversee this include:

- Principal
- Vice Principal (Pastoral Care)
- Safeguarding Team
- Pastoral Leads
- Learning Support Coordinator (LSC)/SENCO

These staff work together to make sure the school follows the rules on safety and support for all pupils.

Preventing Bullying

The law says schools must focus on prevention. At St Patrick's College, we aim to make school a positive place where everyone feels safe, included, and valued.

How do we do this?

- Teach respect, inclusion, and diversity in lessons
- Promote positive behaviour through pastoral programmes
- Give extra help to pupils who might be at risk
- Train staff to use restorative approaches
- Work with parents and carers
- Listen to pupils through surveys and councils
- Take part in anti-bullying campaigns and events
- Check behaviour data to spot patterns
- Participate in Safer Internet Week activities
- Promote anti-bullying behaviour through work with external speakers and agencies

What To Do If You're Worried

- **Speak up** – tell a teacher, Form Teacher, Head of Year, Head of School, Child Protection Teachers or any trusted adult
- **Report it** – bullying will be taken seriously
- **Stay safe** – you are not alone

Pupils can report by:

- Speaking to a staff member
- Writing a note
- Emailing or using private message on Google Classroom
- Using the 'Worry Box' outside Nurture
- Asking a parent to contact a staff member

Parents/carers can report by:

- Contacting the child's **Form Teacher or Head of Year** via phone request, email, or written note via school app or website.
- Escalating to **Head of Key Stage, Vice Principal, or Principal** if concerns persist

Responding and Recording

When someone reports a bullying concern, the school follows clear steps:

What happens first?

- Staff talk to the people involved and check any messages or online content.
- They use the TRIP checklist and fill in a Bullying Concern Assessment Form (BCAF) (if required).

If it is bullying staff will:

- Find out what happened and why.
- Decide what level of support is needed (Levels 1–4).
- Choose actions to help both pupils involved.
- Make sure actions follow school rules on safety, equality, and behaviour.
- Check if the plan is working and record progress.
- Close the case or add more support if needed.

Data and Privacy

- All records are kept safely on the school computer system.
- Support plans are private and shared only with you and your parents/carers.

Language and Approach

- All behaviour is communication and will be addressed through a **learner-centred, relational, solution-focused approach**, aligned with Safeguarding and SEND.
- In St Patrick’s College we use language that focuses on behaviour, not labels:
 - “Pupil displaying bullying-type behaviour”
 - “Pupil experiencing bullying-type behaviour”
 - “Socially unacceptable behaviour”

For more details, see the full policy on the school website or ask at the office.

