

# Brannoxtown Community National School

## Anti-Bullying Policy: Outline

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The Anti-Bullying policy at Brannoxtown CNS works within the framework of the school's overall Code of Behaviour / Positive Behaviour Policy (Approved by the Board of Management, 10/2020). Other relevant school policies include the Child Protection Policy, Acceptable Use Policy and RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) Policies.

### Draft Sections and Subheadings

#### Legislative and Policy framework

##### Definition of Bullying

- Bullying is defined as follows: *Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted, by an individual or group against another person (or persons) which is repeated over time. (Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools, DES)*
- This section distinguishes between isolated incidents of aggressive or antisocial behaviour and bullying, i.e., unwanted one-off incidents or behaviours compared with behaviours which are systematic or repeated.

##### Types of behaviour included in Bullying

##### Roles and Responsibilities

- Staff
- Students
- Parents
- Visitors

##### Positive Behaviour Policy & Positive School Climate

Staff and students at Brannoxtown CNS together create a positive school climate and culture by:

- welcoming difference and diversity and fostering inclusivity, integration and innovation
- encouraging and facilitating children to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a non-threatening environment
- promoting respectful relationships across the whole-school community.

##### Education and prevention: Commitments

This section includes school policies and practices specifically aimed at educating children about and preventing cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying, including homophobic and transphobic bullying.

- CNS Ethos and School Values
- Restorative Practice (Positive Behaviour Policy)
- Goodness Me! Goodness You! (Patron's Programme)
- Voice of the Child at Brannoxtown CNS
- Specific anti-bullying programmes
- Staff Continuing Professional Development

##### Education and prevention: School-wide Practices

Raising awareness of bullying as a form of unacceptable behaviour:

- Dedicated displays and posters to advertise the school as a 'bully-free zone' and to promote friendship.
- Friendship and anti-bullying slogans created by children across the school, displayed through the school.

- An Friendship and Anti-bullying Charter for Brannoxtown CNS, displayed in common areas of the school added to children's school journals.
- Development and review of the school's anti-bullying policy with children and staff at age/class-appropriate levels, through the school.
- Guest speakers to provide information sessions for parents, particularly concerning cyber-bullying for parents of older children.
- Dedicated days/weeks across the school to celebrate friendship and the school as a bully-free zone.
- Class-based development and celebration of 'random acts of kindness' towards one-another.
- Certificates and other simple rewards to celebrate children's achievements in kindness and friendship towards others.
- A Buddy Programme to support all children and to ensure younger children have an older child to talk with.
- Investment in Buddy Benches and interactive play spaces for the school to encourage children to play and talk together, ensuring all are included.

### **Education and prevention: Practices targeting Cyberbullying**

- Monitoring the Acceptable Use Policy and use of technology at Brannoxtown CNS to ensure access is goal-driven and supervised, as appropriate.
- Exploring and understanding the different definition of cyberbullying—a one-off posting can constitute bullying.
- Teaching students how to protect themselves online and how to report any incidents (e.g., Don't reply. Keep the message. Block the sender. Tell someone you trust).
- Promoting Internet Safety with children at Stages 3 and 4 (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class), as appropriate and celebrating *Internet Safety Day* annually.
- Inviting Gardaí and others to visit the school to discuss Internet Safety with children and with parents.
- Sharing materials and resources with parents of children in Stage 4 (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class) e.g., *A Parents' Guide to a Better Internet* (published by Webwise).

### **Procedures to investigate, record and respond to bullying behaviour**

- Investigating
- Recording
- Reporting
- Responding – Support & Restorative Justice

### **Policy Implementation, Success, Monitoring & Review**

#### **Key Resources**

Department of Education and Skills (2013). Anti-bullying procedures for primary and post-primary schools. Available:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Anti-Bullying-Procedures-for-Primary-and-Post-Primary-Schools.pdf>

Edwards, K., Cort, G. & Purdue, C. Trust Me (Content, Propaganda and Content).

Childnet International. Available: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/trust-me>

National Centre for Technology in Education, NCTE. HTML Heroes Internet Safety, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Classes. Available: <https://www.webwise.ie/html-heroes/>

National Centre for Technology in Education, NCTE. My Selfie and the Wider World.

Available: Anti-Cyber Bullying for 5th and 6th Classes. Available:

<https://www.webwise.ie/teachers/my-selfie/>

National Centre for Technology in Education, NCTE. Parents' Guide to a Better Internet. Support, advice and information for parents to help their children have a positive experience online. Available: <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>

Rigby, Ken (Updated, 2020). Bullying in Brief. Available:

<http://www.kenrigby.net/Bullying-in-brief>