

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and it will not be tolerated in our school. Parents of both the pupils involved will be contacted when bullying behaviour has been identified. This applies to Bullying *in school, on the bus or on trips*.

Bullying behaviours outside school hours: It is not the schools responsibility to resolve bullying behaviours which occur outside the school context (eg) through use of social media/internet at home. We will however do our best to inform pupils of the risks posed by internet use through our preventive curriculum in school. Parents should resolve these issues independently and where possible ensure that their children are not using social platforms / games which are inappropriate for primary school children and by keeping games consoles / devices in a communal space in the home (eg. Living room).

Any complaint made by a parent/child concerning bullying, will be investigated by Mr Toner and/or Mrs Smith.

Sanctions may include: a verbal rebuke, loss of breaks, privileges or positions of responsibility. In serious or persistent cases, detentions may be used. Where none of these lead to resolution, suspensions/expulsions may have to be considered. The child displaying the bullying behaviour will be monitored until the staff are satisfied that the problem has been resolved. Efforts will then be made to restore a respectful relationship between the pupils involved.

To prevent our pupils from being abused we:

- teach them about the risks of possible abuse,
- help them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and develop the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

If you are concerned that your child is being bullied, please notify your child's class teacher or Mr Toner as soon as possible, so actions can be taken to address the situation.

For more information about our Anti-Bullying Procedures, please see the full policy on our school Website (Parents Section) www.Ballymoyer.com or ask for a copy in reception.

School Procedures

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection in St Malachy's P.S. is **Mrs Loye**. In his absence **Mrs Marron** is the Deputy Designated teacher.

If a child makes a disclosure, or a member of staff has concerns about a child, **that person must act promptly**. These must be reported to the Designated Teacher (Mr Toner).

If there are concerns that a child may be at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral.

Mr Toner may seek clarification or advice from the Education Authority's Child Protection Support Service before a referral is made.

No decision with regards to a referral is made without careful consideration and appropriate advice.

How a Parent can make a complaint

If you are concerned about your own or another child's welfare, follow these steps:

1. Talk to the class teacher.
2. If I am still concerned I can talk to the Designated Teachers (**Mrs Loye and Mrs Marron**)
3. If I am still concerned I can talk or write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors:
Mr Pat O Hanlon Tel: 07732 954711
4. I can contact the **Social Services Gateway Team Tel: 028 37415285** (Out of hours emergency number is 028 9504 9999)
5. I can contact the **NI Public Ombudsman Tel: 0800343424**
6. I can contact the **PSNI Central Referral Unit on Tel: 028 90259299**

ST. MALACHY'S P.S.



Pastoral Care and Child Protection

School Policy 2024-25

A Guide for Parents

Tel: 028 37507428
www.Ballymoyer.com

Pastoral Care and Child Protection

At St. Malachy's P.S we have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of all our pupils. In our school, we aim to provide a warm and caring environment so that each pupil feels safe, secure and valued.

The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages the children to do their best. We strive to ensure that each pupil achieves his/her potential academically, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life and is based upon the strong Catholic Ethos which prevails.

Mutual respect, tolerance and forgiveness are the values that we aim to promote.

Implications

In St Malachy's, every effort is made for children to:

- gain a wide range of learning experiences during their time in school.
- develop independent thinking and to take responsibility for their actions.
- promote self-esteem, self-discipline, self-respect and respect for others.
- develop their talents and recognise their own self-worth, strengths & interests.
- have a voice within school life.
- foster relationships where they feel happy and secure.

Class teachers strive to form good working relationships with children in their care. They form strong and supportive links with parents, to ensure effective communication exists.

Supervisors and classroom assistants, aim to ensure the health and safety of each child so as to support their learning.

Children are always encouraged to do their best in all aspects of school life.

Class teachers promote the children's self esteem through praise and rewards. Each week, pupils receive certificates of merit to acknowledge the contribution they have made to school life. Each month, the Cups and Trophies are awarded to pupils who have maintained high standards and shown excellent behaviour over a consistent period of time. Our pupils know that these awards are special and they contribute greatly to the children's motivation and self esteem.

Parental Concerns

Parents are always welcome to discuss their child's progress or any other issue of concern they may have. To accommodate parents and to ensure they receive an adequate period of uninterrupted time, parents are asked to **contact the school in advance to arrange a suitable time** to meet their child's teacher or Principal.

Child Protection

It is consistent with the aims and objectives of Catholic Education that we all have a duty to protect children from abuse or the risk of abuse.



The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy:

- The welfare of the child must always be paramount and their voice should be heard.
- Parents are supported to exercise parental responsibility and families are helped to stay together where this is in the best interests of the child.
- Children should be kept safe from harm. Where a parent is not meeting their needs, the welfare of the child should be the priority. This may necessitate the intervention of Social Services where needed.

Forms of Abuse

There are five main kinds of abuse. The following are details and possible symptoms.

Neglect: The confirmed or suspected, persistent or significant neglect of a child. Symptoms may include hunger, inadequate clothing, lack of cleanliness and regular tiredness.

Physical Abuse: Confirmed or suspected deliberate injury to a child or wilful failure to prevent physical suffering to a child. Symptoms may include unexplained injuries, bruises or burns (especially repeated ones).

Emotional Abuse: Emotional ill treatment or rejection. Symptoms may include delays in physical, mental and emotional development and unexplained fears.

Sexual Abuse: Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child. The involvement of children in activities they do not truly comprehend, to which they are unable to give informed consent or that violate the social taboos of family roles.

Exploitation: The intentional ill treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child (eg) child labour, slavery, begging, child trafficking. Exploitation can also be sexual in nature.