

KJHS

ANTI-BULLYING

POLICY



“Working together for excellence within a caring community”

It is the basic entitlement of all children that they receive their education free from humiliation, oppression and abuse. It is the responsibility of all adults, teachers and parents, to ensure that this take place in an atmosphere which is caring and protective.

At Killicomaine our aims are to

- make every pupil feel an important part of the school
- ensure equality of treatment to all pupils in all areas of school life
- create a pleasant stimulating and well-ordered environment
- promote caring, tolerant and responsible attitudes towards others in the community and in the wider world.

All schools have a responsibility to create a secure and safe environment for pupils who are in their care, so that parents may send their children to school in the confident knowledge that they will be protected from bullies.

It is therefore important that we create an atmosphere in which the potential for bullying is minimised; we seek to do this by:

- having a clearly defined code of conduct
- ensuring that Behaviour Management Policy is clearly understood by all staff and pupils
- developing a trusting relationship between staff and pupils enhanced through extra-curricular activities and extensive pastoral care provision
- ensuring that our Inclusion Policy is clearly understood by all staff and pupils
- developing caring and responsible attitudes through assemblies, charity work, health education, trips, social, cultural and LLW programmes. These enrichment programmes are supported by our youth workers and ministers who present rich and varied social, spiritual, moral and cultural education, both in the classroom and on the many trips and visits which they organise.

What is bullying?

Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. It does not consist of a single incident but rather a progression or continuation of incidents. It is not a spontaneous reaction; it involves a degree of deliberation. Bullying occurs in one of two forms:

Physical Abuse – this commonly takes the form of fighting, pushing and obstructing the victim's movements.

Verbal/Mental Abuse – this commonly takes the form of name calling, threatening physical attack, pressurising the victims to break the rules, spreading rumours and excluding the victims from their own peer group.

Cyber Bullying- where the bully uses communication technology to deliberately harm another person, usually with words or images.

All three types of abuse exert mental anguish on the victims.

What are the signs?

If your son or daughter is being bullied you may see changes in their behaviour pattern. They may:

- become nervous or depressed
- have difficulty sleeping
- have loss of appetite
- be reluctant to come to school
- be easily upset, moody or miserable
- become withdrawn
- spend a lot of time in their bedroom

Look out for:

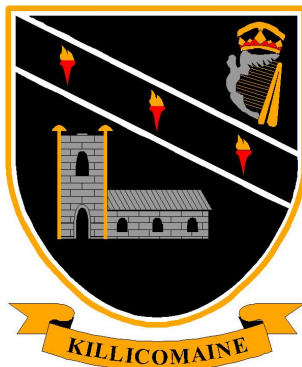
- items of clothing, property, school work lost or damaged more than you would expect
- sudden or consistent under-performance in school
- requests to be accompanied to, or collected from, school
- money in the house going missing

- child coming home hungry – this may be due to a bully demanding “dinner money”
- child inflicting harm on oneself

PUPILS ARE ASKED TO REPORT ANY FORM OF BULLYING TO A MEMBER OF STAFF AS SOON AS IT OCCURS.

Killicomaine Junior High School affirms that all forms of bullying are unacceptable and that we are committed to do all in our power to eradicate it.

“Working together for excellence within a caring community”



CODE OF PRACTICE

Parents

Killicomaine Junior High School is a listening school

- Encourage your child to talk to you about their school and social life
- Feel free to discuss any concerns with members of staff - even minor problems can be distressing to a child
- Watch your child for any signs of distress
- Listen to your child and take seriously any reports of bullying

If your child is the victim of bullying

- Do contact the school
- Make sure of the facts
- Work with the school to develop strategies to support your child

If your child is responsible for bullying:

- Do not ignore it
- Make it clear that such behaviour is unacceptable
- Work with the school to develop strategies to change behaviour



CODE OF PRACTICE

Pupils

Killicomaine Junior High School is a listening school

Feeling bullied? Feeling unhappy?

Then follow these easy steps:

Step One Value yourself and your feelings
 TELL your parents
 TELL your friends
 TELL the School so together they can help

Step Two Help yourself
 Ignore comments—do not react but TELL
 Prevent it

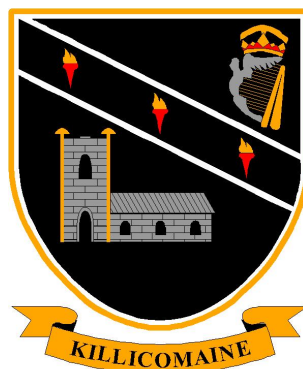
Step Three *Out of school*
 Avoid the problem/hot spots
 Go home with someone else
 Take a lift with a parent or friend

In school
 Go to the member of staff with whom you feel most
 confident
 Tell your teacher or form teacher

And remember if **you** see bullying TELL someone

Do not give the bully any power

*Remember: it is the
NOT YOU*



bully who has the problems

PUPIL RELATIONSHIPS CHARTER

“Working together for excellence within a caring community”

Statement

Killicomaine Junior High School aims to create a community in which every member is respected as an individual. We believe that every pupil has a right to receive his/her education in a safe and secure environment free from intimidation, threat or harm from any other person.

Practice

We have adopted this three point Code of Practice aimed respectively at pupils, staff and parents to encourage these values.

Commitment

The Governors and staff of Killicomaine Junior High School make a commitment to all our young people that all reported incidents will be:

- Taken seriously and dealt with sensitively
- Followed up with necessary action and support
- Bullying will be brought out into the open where appropriate, demonstrating that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.



KILlicOMAINE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**Code of Practice
Staff Action**

Implementation

All incidences of bullying are different and each case will be dealt with on an individual basis. You must have confidence that we will act determinedly and will do so with sensitivity.

What we will do

1. Establish the facts

We will

- i. listen carefully to your son/daughter
- ii. carry out an investigation to establish the details, where, when and how
- iii. act sensitively by avoiding naming victim/informant if at all possible

2. Help the victim

We will

- i. provide stratagems to help the victim cope and to boost self-esteem
- ii. provide a 'safe haven' where necessary
- iii. keep in touch with you

3. Deal with the bully

We will

- i Deal with the bully in line with the school's Behaviour Management Policy.
- ii Seek specialist help for bully
- iii Provide counselling
- iv Provide Mentoring

Who to contact

If you suspect your child is being bullied you should contact the school and speak to:

The Form Teacher

The Year Heads Miss McCollum, Mr Usher (10th year)

Mrs Cordner (9th year)

Mrs McClenaghan, Mrs Proctor (8th year)

Vice Principal Mr McAleese

The Principal is always available to discuss your concerns on this issue
All bullying incidents will be logged on SIMS by the investigating teacher.

In most cases the investigating teacher will be the Form Teacher, supported by the Year Head where necessary.

In extreme cases, where a solution has not been found, the VP will take over from the Year Head. The responses to bullying will depend on the severity and persistence of the bullying and will be in line with the sanctions listed in our Behaviour Management Policy.

PARENTS who require further information or clarification of any of the content of this policy should contact school (028 3833 2021) and ask for the Vice-Principal