



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Incidental Inspection

Note on school measures to prevent and tackle bullying

School name	Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál
School address	Kilkerley Dundalk County Louth
Roll number	16749B
Date of inspection	11-05-2022

1. Introduction

In the course of the incidental inspection conducted in this school, the inspector(s) evaluated the work of the school in relation to the implementation of aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*. The inspector(s) also discussed with the school principal the priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture.

Bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. A cornerstone in the prevention of bullying is a positive school culture and climate that is welcoming of difference and diversity and that is based on inclusivity and respect.

The purpose of this note is to support the school in creating and sustaining a positive school culture and preventing and tackling bullying.

2. Priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture and climate

The principal reported that the following are the priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture that prevents and tackles bullying:

- Continued focus on the implementation of the school's social, personal and health education (SPHE) policy, with the support of programmes advocated by the Department of Education, such as Stay Safe, Friends for Life and Fun Friends.
- The school's very successful use of the evidence-based KiVa anti-bullying programme reinforces key messages surrounding anti-bullying and wellbeing.
- A care programme with a monthly theme is implemented.
- The school actively celebrates all pupil achievements.

The following good practices in relation to preventing and tackling bullying were noted during the incidental inspection:

- There was notable affirmation of all pupils' contributions during the teaching and learning observed.
- The school is using behaviour reflection sheets for students and engages in conferencing.

3. The school's implementation of aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*

During the incidental inspection, a review was carried out of the school's implementation of the following aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.

1. An anti-bullying policy, that uses the template provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*, has been ratified by the board of management.
2. Incidents of bullying behaviour are recorded using the template provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.
3. The board of management minutes show that, at least once in every school term, the principal provides a report to the board which sets out the overall number of bullying cases reported to the principal or deputy principal since the previous report to the board, and confirmation that all of these cases have been, or are being, dealt with in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy and the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.
4. The anti-bullying policy is published on the school's website and/or is otherwise readily accessible to board of management members, teachers, parents and pupils/students.
5. The board of management has undertaken an annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy in accordance with the checklist provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)* and the completed checklist is signed and dated.

The school met the requirements in relation to implementing aspects 1, 2, 4 and 5 above. In order to meet the requirements in relation to implementing aspect 3, the school needs to take the following action(s):

Going forward, at least once in every school term, a report should be provided to the board of management, and recorded in the board minutes, setting out the overall number of bullying cases reported to the principal or deputy principal since the previous report to the board, and confirmation that all of these cases have been, or are being, dealt with in accordance with the school's anti-bullying policy and the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.