

Urlingford National School Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

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The Board of Management of Scoil an Chroi Ro Naofa, Urlingford NS has adopted the following policy to prevent and address bullying behaviour.

This policy fully complies with the requirements of *Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2024*.

The Board of Management acknowledges that bullying behaviour interferes with the rights of the child as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We all, as a school community, have a responsibility to work together to prevent and address bullying behaviour and to deal with the negative impact of bullying behaviour.

We are committed to ensuring that all students who attend our school are kept safe from harm and that the wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of everything that we do. We recognise the negative impact that bullying behaviour can have on the lives of our students and we are fully committed to preventing and addressing bullying behaviour.

We confirm that we will, in accordance with our obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the harassment of students or staff on any of the nine grounds specified: gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is defined in *Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying* and *Bí Cineálta: Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* as targeted behaviour, online or offline that causes harm. The harm caused can be physical, social and/or emotional in nature. Bullying behaviour is repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power in relationships between two people or groups of people in society. The detailed definition is provided in Chapter 2 of the Bí Cineálta procedures.

Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour that is not bullying behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour.

Section A: Development/review of our Bí Cineálta policy to prevent and address bullying behavior

All members of our school community were provided with the opportunity to input into the development/review of this policy.

	Date consulted	Method of consultation
School Staff	April + May 2025	Staff Meeting + Discussion Staff Training (Half Day) Weekly Friday Staff Emails
Students	April + May 2025	Discussion with Student Council Construction of School Child Friendly Bi Cinealta Policy Pupil Questionnaires
Parents	April + May 2025	Parents Association Meetings + Discussion Parent Questionnaires/Surveys Weekly Friday Parent Emails
Board of Management	Tuesday 12 th of February 2025	Board of Management Meetings Board of Management Discussions Board of Management Questionnaires
Wider school community as appropriate, for example, bus drivers	April + May 2025	Meetings with Local Second Level Schools Meetings with Local Youth Groups Meetings with Local Sports Clubs
Date policy was approved: June 2025		
Date policy was last reviewed: Approved in June 2025		

Section B: Preventing Bullying Behaviour

This section sets out the prevention strategies that will be used by the school. These include strategies specifically aimed at preventing online bullying behaviour, homophobic and transphobic bullying behaviour, racist bullying behaviour, sexist bullying behaviour and sexual harassment as appropriate (see Chapter 5 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

- Supervision (Pre School Supervision, Classroom Management + Yard/ Break-time Supervision)
- Culture and Environment
- A Telling Environment
- A Trusted Adult
- Creating Safe Physical Spaces in School
- Curriculum (Teaching and Learning)
- Policy and Planning
- Relationships and Partnerships
- Cyberbullying Guest Speaker to School

To determine whether the behaviour reported is bullying behaviour you should consider the following questions:

1. Is the behaviour targeted at a specific student or group of students?
2. Is the behaviour intended to cause physical, social or emotional harm?
3. Is the behaviour repeated?

If the answer to each of the questions above is Yes, then the behaviour is bullying behaviour and the behavior should be addressed using the Bí Cineálta Procedures.

One off Incidents may be considered bullying in certain circumstances. A single hurtful message posted on social media can be considered bullying behaviour as it has a high likelihood of being shared multiple times and thus becomes a repeated behaviour.

If the answer to any of these questions is No, then the behaviour is not bullying behaviour.

Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour. When identifying if bullying behaviour has occurred teachers should consider what, where, when and why?

If a group of students is involved, each student should be engaged with individually at first, thereafter, all students involved should be met as a group.

At the group meeting, each student should be asked for their account of what happened to ensure that everyone in the group is clear about each other's views. Each student should be supported as appropriate. Following the group meeting, it may be helpful to ask the students involved to write down their account of the incident(s).

The school has the following supervision and monitoring policies in place to prevent and address bullying behaviour (see Chapter 5 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

- Pre School Supervision (8:45am – 9am)
- Yard and Break Time Supervision
- End of School Day Supervision
- Classroom Management + Class Teacher Supervision
- Detention at Break-time Supervision

- Supervision during SET Time
- Withdrawal from Class Supervision
- Using your neighbour (other staff member as necessary)
- Bus/Coach Supervision
- Extra Curricular School Activities Supervision
- Supervision Policy

Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour

The teacher(s) with responsibility for addressing bullying behaviour is (are) as follows:

Class Teachers in conjunction with all Staff in School

When bullying behaviour occurs, the school will:

- Ensure that the student experiencing bullying behaviour is heard and reassured
- Seek to ensure the privacy of those involved
- Conduct all conversations with sensitivity
- Consider the age and ability of those involved
- Listen to the views of the student who is experiencing the bullying behaviour as to how best to address the situation
- Take action in a timely manner
- Inform parents of those involved

The steps that may be taken by the school to determine if bullying behaviour has occurred, the approaches taken to address the bullying behaviour and to review progress are as follows (see Chapter 6 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

- Individual interviews
- Group meeting
- Whole Class Lesson
- Make other Staff Aware
- Added vigilance on yard and in class, hall, all areas of school
- Record Keeping
- Communication with parents
- Meeting with parents
- Restorative practice
- Mediation
- Sanction/Penalty

The school may use the following approaches to support those who experience, witness and display bullying behaviour (see Chapter 6 of the Bí Cineálta procedures):

- Regular discreet check ins with pupil
- Regular check ins with relevant pupil
- Increased zonal supervision as necessary during Pre School, Yard and Break-time supervision
- Additional scrutiny of positions pupils take on buses and in lines etc
- Utilisation of appropriate seating plan by Class and SET Teachers
- Additional scrutiny of extra-curricular activities undertaken by relevant pupils
- Correct Classroom management strategies in use so as all pupils feel safe and well supervised in our school
- Use of NEPS, Oide and Education Center Resources for benefit of pupil and school community.

All bullying behaviour will be recorded. This will include the type of behaviour, where and when it took place, and the date of the engagement with students and parents. The actions and supports agreed to address bullying behaviour will be documented. If the bullying behaviour is a child protection concern the matter will be addressed without delay in accordance with *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

Section D: Oversight

The Principal will present an update on bullying behaviour at each board of management meeting. This update will include the number of incidents of bullying behaviour that have been reported since the last meeting, the number of ongoing incidents and the total number of incidents since the beginning of the school year. Where incidents of bullying behaviour have occurred, the Principal will also provide a verbal update which will include where relevant, information relating to trends and patterns identified, strategies used to address the bullying behaviour and any wider strategies to prevent and address bullying behaviour where relevant. This update does not contain personal or identifying information. See Chapter 7 of the Bí Cineálta procedures.

This policy is available to our school community on the school's website and in hard copy on request from our School Office between 8.30am and 12.30pm on school days. A student friendly version of this policy is displayed in the school and is also available on our website and in hard copy on request.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairperson of board of management)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Principal)