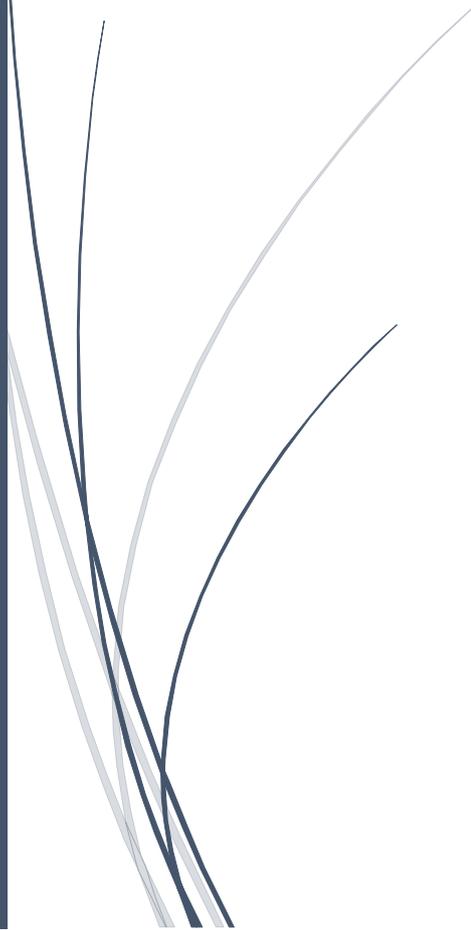


May 2018

Anti-Bullying Policy

Franciscan Province of Ireland





proibhinse fhroinsiasach na h-éireann

franciscan province of ireland

provincial office – 4, merchants' quay – dublin 8 – ireland

Anti-Bullying Policy – Franciscan Province of Ireland

Definition of bullying: Bullying is defined as unwanted behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time.

The types of bullying behaviour are included in this non-exhaustive definition:

- Deliberate exclusion, malicious gossip and other forms of relational bullying;
- Cyber bullying;
- Identity-based bullying such as homophobic bullying, racist bullying, bullying based on a person's membership of the Travelling community and bullying of those with disabilities or special educational needs.

Placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

Types of Bullying:

The following are some of the types of bullying behaviour that can occur amongst pupils:

- Physical aggression: pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, poking and tripping people
- Intimidation: such as very aggressive body language with the voice being used as a weapon; a facial expression which conveys aggression and/or dislike.
- Isolation/exclusion and other relational bullying: isolating, excluding or ignoring one person by some or all of the group.
- Cyber bullying such as text, social network sites, e-mail, instant messaging (IM), apps, gaming sites, chat-rooms and other online technologies.
- Name calling: Persistent name-calling directed at the same individual(s) which hurts, insults or humiliates.
- Damage to property: defacing, breaking, stealing, hiding or interfering with personal belongings such as clothing, mobile phone or other devices, school books and other learning material.

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- Items of personal property may be defaced, broken, stolen or hidden. Personal property can be the focus of attention for bullying behaviour. This may result in damage to extortion: demands for money often accompanied by threats.

The Franciscans OFM, recognise the very serious nature of bullying and the negative impact that it can have on the lives of children and young people and is therefore committed to preventing and tackling bullying behaviour. It does this by

- Promoting a positive culture and climate which:
- Is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity
- Encourages children to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a non-threatening environment; and
- Promotes respectful relationships between children;
- Having a shared understanding of what bullying is and its impact;
- Implementing education and prevention strategies (including awareness raising measures) that...
 - Build empathy, respect and resilience among children and young people, and
 - Explicitly address the issues of cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying including in particular, homophobic and transphobic bullying;
- Effective supervision and monitoring of children;
- Consistent recording, investigation and follow up of bullying behaviour;
- Ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy.

Aidan McGrath OFM

Aidan McGrath OFM
Minister Provincial

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