



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Incidental Inspection

Note on school measures to prevent and tackle bullying

School name	St Aloysius School
School address	Sharman Crawford Street Cork
Roll number	62630J
Date of inspection	09-11-2021

1. Introduction

In the course of the incidental inspection conducted in this school, the inspector 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 also discussed with the school deputy 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 deputy principal reported that the following are the priorities of the school in relation to creating a positive school culture that prevents and tackles bullying:

- The school is currently prioritising looking at online activities as part of its work regarding anti-bullying, and Wellbeing at junior cycle.
- Positive behaviour and open communication are a priority of the school and management encourages respectful interactions among all members of the school community.
- The school's pastoral care system is central to dealing with any issues that may arise in a timely manner, before they escalate. The school feels that this has been very successful in keeping the number of bullying incidents to such a low level.

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

- In addition to the focus on Wellbeing at junior cycle, the school is involved in initiatives such as Safer Internet Day and a 'Think Before You Click' campaign involving Transition Year (TY) students. Senior cycle students in the school are involved in promoting many of these activities among junior cycle students.
- The school has invited guest speakers to speak to students about self-esteem and self-respect and is involved in the Shona project in this regard.
- Plans are in place to participate in the FUSE project later in the school year. This is a project co-ordinated by DCU with a specific focus on anti-bullying.

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)*.

- 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.
- Incidents of bullying behaviour are recorded using the template provided in the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-primary Schools (2013)*.
- 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)*.

- 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.
- 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 1, 2, 4 and 5 above. In order to meet the requirements in relation to implementing aspects of 3, the school needs to take the following actions:

- The principal should ensure that a report which sets out the overall number of bullying cases reported is provided to the board at least once in every school term, even when there are no bullying incidents to report.