



## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

### *School Bí Cineálta Policy to prevent and address bullying behavior*

The Board of Management of *Whitegate National School* 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.



Each school is required to develop and implement a Bí Cineálta policy that sets out how the school community prevents and addresses bullying behaviour. 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 Bi Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour***

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	27th August 2024	Staff meeting and shared drive
Students	28th August 2024	Class discussions and assembly
Parents	16th September 2024	Focus group (22 parents) Aladdin
Board of management	8th October 2024	BOM meeting
Wider school community as appropriate, for example, bus drivers	26 <sup>th</sup> of November 2024	Parent's Coffee morning (12 Parents)
School Staff	26 <sup>th</sup> of March 2025	Half Day Closure – Staff Consultation
Date policy was approved: 03/04/2025		
Date policy was last reviewed: April 2024		





## ***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):

- Anti-Bullying awareness week: 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Continuing to create inclusive school culture
- Encourage 'A telling environment'
- Curriculum SPHE and RSE

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):

- Four adults on yard at all times, 2 teachers and 2 SNA's
- Supervision Policy
- Wellbeing Policy

## ***Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour***

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

*Helena O'Neill and Laura Hyde*



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 will 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):

- Identify if bullying has occurred
- Ensure student feels heard and reassured
- Ensure privacy
- Conduct conversations with sensitivity
- Consider age and ability
- Take action in a timely manner
- Inform parent/s





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

- Ensure that the student experiencing the bullying behaviour feels listened to and reassured
- Seek to ensure the privacy of those involved
- Conduct all conversations with sensitivity
- Consider the age and the ability of the student 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

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.




# Whitegate National School

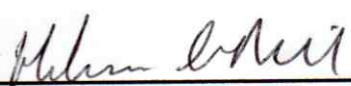
Established 1881

This policy is available to our school community on the school's website and in hard copy on request. 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, following input from our school community, each calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this policy refers.

Signed:   
(Chairperson of board of management)

Date: 3/4/25

Signed:   
(Principal)

Date: 3/4/25



## PREVENTING BULLYING

You can stop bullying happening by:

- Being kind to everyone.
- Standing up for yourself and others.
- Knowing what to do if you see bullying.
- Telling an adult that you trust if you see bullying or are being bullied.
- Create a buddy system to get to know everyone in the school.
- Don't be a by-stander. Tell the bully to stop.

**BULLY-FREE  
ZONE**

## TYPES OF BULLYING

- Verbal - name calling, telling lies, making fun of, sniggering, and spreading secrets.
- Physical - hitting, pushing, pinching, shoving, spitting and damaging property.
- Cyber - see information on the pamphlet.
- Racist - being mean because of skin colour or where they're from.
- Physical Appearance - making fun of a child who looks different to others.

**Be Kind**



# CINEÁLTA

PREVENTING BULLYING



CREATED BY

THE STUDENT COUNCIL OF  
WHITEGATE NATIONAL SCHOOL





## WHAT IS BULLYING?

### 1. Bullying is Intentional/On Purpose

The person must know that they are causing harm or upset to the child they are aiming their actions at. It is not an accident.

### 2. Repeated Behaviour

The action must happen more than once. It must happen again and again

### 3. Imbalance of Power

When bullying happens, the child struggles to stand up for themselves because the bully may be bigger, older, stronger or well liked.

## Signs a Child is Being Bullied

- They are quiet, seem less interested and tired in school.
- They are not able to do their best.
- They do not want to go to school.
- They are often sick, such as headaches, stomach aches, vomiting, shaking and crying.
- They have cuts/bruises and will not say why.
- Their pencils, books, eraser etc. are often missing.
- Always looking around them.
- They do not want to talk about what's bothering them.

## Cyber Bullying

### Cyber Bullying is:

- Being mean to someone online such as sending/posting images, posting bad comments, tellings lies on social media.

Cyber Bullying only has to be done once for it to be known as bullying.

We can prevent Cyber Bullying by:

- Being kind when online.
- Having internet safety day in school, for children and parents.
- Blocking someone if they are being mean online.