

Advice for Pupils and Parents

In class, at play and at home, children will learn the difference between *right and wrong*; what is acceptable, what is unacceptable and where the boundaries are. As parents and staff we share an important responsibility to secure a caring environment for all the children in the school, to help them make positive friendships and offer useful strategies if things go wrong and if difficult situations arise.

We hope that all pupils will be well behaved and show respect towards others. However, sometimes children can behave unacceptably either individually or in groups - on occasion quite unwittingly, causing another child to become distressed and upset.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted, by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time.

The following types of bullying behaviour are included in the definition of bullying:

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

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and should be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

Any pupil can be a victim of/or perpetrator of bullying.

Advice for Parents:

- a) If you feel your child may be a victim of bullying behaviour, inform the school IMMEDIATELY. Your complaint will be taken seriously and appropriate action will follow.
- b) It is important to advise your child not to fight back. It can make matters worse.
- c) Tell your child there is nothing wrong with him/her. It is not his/her fault that they are being bullied.
- d) Never criticize someone else's child's behaviour directly. If there's a problem contact the school.

Advice for children

What to do if you are bullied:

Tell Tell Tell

Tell your friends, your teacher, your principal and above all, your parents

At St. Lachtain's N.S we take cases of bad behaviour and bullying very seriously.

The staff all work together to follow up incidents and ensure:

- *the situation is brought under control promptly.*
- *the aggrieved child feels secure, not intimidated and is helped to feel better.*
- *those responsible are made to understand the effect of their behaviour.*
- *the matter is laid to rest, but kept under review.*

Bullying is not normal, and is something that no child should have to endure. Bullies have to be stopped, for the welfare of everyone.

Bullying can have a profound effect on children's lives and can have a lasting effect on them into adulthood. It can undermine their self-esteem and self-confidence. An unfounded accusation of bullying can have the same effect.