



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Incidental Inspection

Note on school measures to prevent and tackle bullying

School name	Abbey Community College
School address	Abbey Rd Ferrybank Waterford
Roll number	76082H
Date of inspection	24-11-2021

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 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 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 promotes student wellbeing by fostering a good relationship with staff, students and parents based on mutual respect and inclusiveness.
- The school has developed a wellbeing curriculum for students from first year to transition year which includes the themes of bullying, friendship and equality.
- There is an active student support team in place which meets weekly with senior management and is focused on early intervention and restorative practices.
- The school celebrates student achievement both inside and outside of the school.
- Student voice is optimised through a student leadership system, a student-led curriculum and regular student surveys.

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 implementing the above aspects of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures*.