



*Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address
Bullying Behaviour*

2025-2027

Board of Management:

The Board of Management of St Bricin's College, Belturbet, Co Cavan, 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 BÍ 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.

	<u>Date Consulted</u>	<u>Method of Consultation</u>
School Staff	10/03/2025	Questionnaire & half day closure
Students	27/02/2025	Questionnaire
Parents	27/02/2025	Questionnaire
Board of Management	28/01/2025 & 25/03/2025	Discussion
Wider School Community as appropriate, e.g. Bus drivers etc.	10/03/2025	Questionnaire
Date policy was approved:	08/05/2025	
Date policy was last reviewed:	08/05/2025	

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):

Culture & Environment:

- Promote a culture of respect & inclusion through awareness campaigns e.g. Multi-cultural week, Language Awareness Week, Neurodiversity Week etc
- Wellbeing room/Prayer room during Ramadan
- Supervision at break/lunchtimes. Toilet & locker areas.
- Wellbeing ambassadors' supervision-Bí Cineálta. Hi-Vis
- Reporting procedures visible to all.
- Buddy & mentor system. (Big Brother Big Sister)
- ETB and school ethos visible through artwork and wellbeing murals e.g. the Wellbeing Walkway with the Indicators of Wellbeing identified.
- Points system on VS ware
- Each assembly – bullying/antibullying to be referenced.
- Anonymous anti-bullying questionnaire per term.
- Anti-bullying posters & signposting support staff.
- Teacher classroom management
- Modelling ethos of the school & respectful behaviour.
- Creating 'Safe places' in school such as the Wellbeing room.
- Identifying bullying blackspots and increasing supervision in these areas.
- Positive Phrases in Girls' Bathrooms & on the stair risers creating a sense of belonging.
- 'Creation of a telling environment'- Creating a culture of reporting
- All areas bright and visible

- Library passes for quiet space/time.
- Talent shows at Christmas and end of year

Relationships & Partnerships:

- Student Council - Bí Cineálta on each agenda
- Parents association involvement in Wellbeing initiatives e.g Darkness into Light Walk
- Student Support Team
- Update school website with a 'Wellbeing tab' which includes links for parents to online resources to help them support their son/daughter's responsible internet usage.
- Encouraging active school participation for all students through School Clubs i.e. Lunch time clubs
- Age-appropriate awareness initiatives e.g. Stand-up Awareness week, Multi-Cultural day.
- Empathy building workshop e.g. Narrative 4, My Friends Youth, Fcróige training.
- Resilience workshop e.g. LA519-Frank Diamond's talk on Resilience.
- Peer mentoring programme with Senior Year Head.
- Promoting acts of kindness during Wellbeing Week & Kindness Day.
- Acknowledging courtesy, citizenship and example setting.
- Promoting online safety programmes for parents who are responsible for overseeing their child's activities online.
- Holding a 'Safer Internet Day' to reinforce awareness around appropriate online behaviour.
- Encourage inclusion of SEN students at lunchtime/afterschool clubs.
- More mainstream students getting involved with MLU-reverse integration e.g. languages & Health & Fitness module.
- Bounce back
- Foróige 365
- Gaisce Award

Policy & planning:

- Student Support team
- Supervision rota
- Communicating the Acceptable Usage Policy to all.
- Admission policy
- Code of behaviour
- AEN Policy & IEP's
- CPD in dealing with anti-bullying behaviour- Jigsaw and NEART
- On agenda for Staff meeting, Student Council meetings, BOMs.
- Annual review to assess effectiveness of the policy
- 6th year prefects/Head boy/Head girl/Ethos programme
- Yondr Pouches-random spot checks.
- Pastoral care themes e.g. Wellbeing Wednesday's.

Curriculum:

- Timetabled SPHE/RSE classes 1st-6th year
- FUSE Programme
- An awareness campaign for Safer Internet Day
- Headstrong committee delivery of four lessons on wellbeing, including a lesson on Bullying, to all first years.
- Behaviour Support Plans with Restorative Practice leads.
- Anti-bullying week-lessons specific to bullying being taught throughout this week
- Wellbeing week
- Extra-Curricular Clubs & activities
- Pastoral Care System
- Digital media literacy curriculum - responsible online behaviour and digital citizenship.

- IMBVE-being taught in 1st-4th Year
- Tackle your feelings, Rugby Ireland
- Free supervised after school study

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):

Appropriate supervision is an important measure to help prevent and address bullying behaviour. Schools are required to take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety of their students and to supervise students when students are attending school or attending school activities.

At break and lunch time each day there are three members of staff on supervision. one staff member is on duty in the canteen, one staff member is supervising inside the old building and another staff member supervising outside and in the new building. The Principal and Deputy Principal supervise on rotation every day also.

We also offer many lunchtime clubs during break times. E.g. Movie Club, Arts & Crafts Club, Creative writing Club, Club Tae & Plé , Running Club, Badminton, Chess Minecraft etc.

Following the student survey the girl's locker room/toilets were identified as a bullying 'blackspot' by some students. To counteract this, it was relayed to staff at a staff meeting and female staff members have been asked to check in more frequently in the girl's locker room. Lighting has been improved and all students have been encouraged to join a supervised lunchtime club.

Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour

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

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
- Review the case no more than 20 days later
- If bullying has not ceased the YH may need to review the strategies used in consultation with parents and students and a further timeframe needs to be set.
- If the bullying continues the school may need to consider the Code of Behaviour in dealing with this inappropriate behaviour, if not already.

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):

- Bullying incident report form-is it repeated, intended and harmful? (see infographic)
- SST
- Pastoral care
- Investigations and interviews
- Involvement of parents
- Sanctions
- Agreement from parents.
- Review no more than 20 days later.

- If bullying has ceased supervision and monitoring may still be necessary.
- If bullying has not ceased the Code of Behaviour may need to be applied.

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):

- Restorative practice (1st years)
- Code of behaviour
- Guidance councillor
- Student Support Team
- SET -could be organisational skills related
- Check and Connect
- One Good Adult
- Big Brother Big Sister
- Mentoring Programme
- Wellbeing Ambassadors

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*.

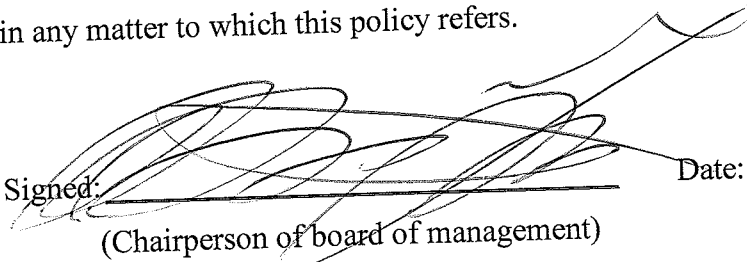
Section D: Oversight

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.

This policy is available to our school community on the school's website and in hard copy at reception on request. A student friendly version of this policy is displayed in the school and a brief overview is also available in our school journal.

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:  Date: 8/5/25
(Chairperson of board of management)

Signed: Jody S. Sellenhor Date: 8/5/25
(Principal)