

### 3. Make contact with the school

- Sometimes a telephone call is enough for appropriate action to be taken.
- However, it may be appropriate to make an appointment to see:
  - The Class teacher;
  - The Designated Teacher [Mrs Kelly];
  - The Deputy Designated Teachers [Mrs McPolin, Mr Keenan];
  - Vice Principal [Mrs Duffin]; or
  - Principal [Mrs. Cassidy]

### Mobile Phones

Personal mobile phones/ICT devices, iPods, iPads, tablets or any other device that can be used to photograph, record, transmit or connect remotely to any other device are NOT permitted in school. In an emergency pupils may use the school phone. If, for some reason, a child needs to bring a mobile phone/ICT device to school, they must leave it in the Principal's office before 9.00am and collect it at home time.

### How will we inform the pupils of our message?

The key message to our pupils is that they are all special and that no one in or out of school is allowed to hurt or bully them. We will emphasize that each person has feelings and has a right to feel safe and to stay safe in school.

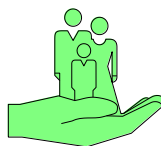
In each class we follow the Circle-Time Programme, which deals with inappropriate behaviour, including bullying. Class and School Covenants, which reinforce appropriate, positive behaviour are displayed in each class and around the school. Pupils in our school are encouraged to talk about their feelings and to talk to staff members, if there is a particular concern.

Anti-bullying messages are regularly reinforced through:  
assemblies;  
our Rights Respecting School Project;  
specially organized events; and  
class activities.

The children are reminded about who they can go to if they have any concerns or worries about life in school or out of school.

**For more detailed information, please request a copy of our Anti-Bullying Policy from the school office. All policies and leaflets are available from the school's website:**

**[www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)**



### Getting Help

**Children may seek help at any time from:  
Childline Freephone 0800 1111**

**Parents may seek advice from: Parenting NI: 📞  
0808 801 0722 [Weekdays 10.00-4.00pm]**

## Carrick Primary School

### Anti-Bullying Procedures



### Information for Parents.

**December 2024**

## Care in Carrick Primary School

In our school there has been a strong and sustained tradition of caring for pupils. The pastoral aspect of Carrick facilitates the development of a supportive, caring, trusting, open and secure environment. As a school we are committed to a child centred approach which advocates that:

*Every child is unique and of unquestionable importance.*

Our Anti-Bullying Policy and practices are in accordance with the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016 and the Statutory Guidance for Schools and Boards of Governors (DE 2019)

### **Definition of Bullying:**

#### *Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016*

1- *In this Act 'bullying includes (but is not limited to) the use of:*

- (a) any verbal, written or electronic communication,*
- (b) any other act, or*
- (c) any combination of those,*

*by a pupil or a group of pupils against another pupil or group of pupils, with the intention of causing physical or emotional harm to that pupil or group of pupils.*

2- *For the purpose of subsection (1), 'act' includes omission*

### **Bullying Behaviours**

Bullying is behaviour that is usually repeated, targeted and carried out intentionally to cause hurt,

harm or to adversely affect the rights and needs of other pupils.

Unacceptable behaviours when repeated, targeted and intentionally hurtful, may be considered as bullying behaviour. These behaviours may include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verbal or Written acts</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical acts</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Omission (Exclusion)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electronic acts</li></ul>

This list is not exhaustive and other behaviours which fit in with the definition may be considered bullying behaviour.

### **Indicators**

There is no foolproof way of knowing that a child is being bullied. Physical injuries are rare. Trust your instincts, as you will know when your child is happy or unhappy. A child may indicate by the following signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied.

Children may:

- \* Be frightened of going on the bus to or from school;
- \* Be unwilling or reluctant to go to school;
- \* Be under achieving in their school work;
- \* Come home regularly with clothes, books or belongings damaged, destroyed or missing;
- \* Become unusually quiet;
- \* Become distressed and /or stop eating;
- \* Cry themselves to sleep;
- \* Have nightmares or restless sleep;
- \* Have unexplained bruises, scratches or cuts;

- \* Refuse to say what is wrong; and
- \* Give improbable excuses to explain any of the above.

However, it should be noted that the above may be symptoms of other issues and may not necessarily indicate bullying.

**Whatever you do, don't rush to confront the child or the parents of a child, who you suspect is bullying your child. Arguments between parents usually make the situation worse rather than better.**

**What should parents do if they are worried about their child?**

#### **1. If you think your child is being bullied:**

- Discuss the situation with your son or daughter;
- Be a good listener;
- Stay calm;
- Show concern;
- Reassure him or her that they have done the right thing by telling you; and
- Encourage him or her to tell a teacher or a member of staff in school. If the child has already reported it to a teacher, but the situation has not improved, it is important that the parent contacts the school, as soon as possible, to report the problem.

#### **2. Note what your child has said about the bullying behaviour.**

- Listen carefully
- Be supportive
- Reassure your child