

# Our Anti-Bullying Policy



# What's meant by bullying?

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Bullying is defined as follows:

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.

(Dept. of Education 2013)

- This might be verbal/physical/cyber/exclusion - more explained in the policy

# Why is it so important?

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'Our Lady's School believes that all members of the school community are **entitled** to a school environment, which is free from bullying and the fear of bullying.'

## Where is it?

- On the school website **p.7 - sign up if you haven't already!**
- Referenced in your journal



# What's meant by bullying?

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There is one important exception to the previous definition:

placing a **once-off** offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a **social network site or other public forum** where that message, image, statement or any other form of intimidation or aggression can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

# Student Responsibilities:

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- Respectful behavior is expected between all members of the school community.
- All students have an active role to play in maintaining a positive, bully-free environment in Our Lady's School.
- All incidents must be reported to a teacher.
- Students' rights and responsibilities are outlined in the student journal.
- In the course of any investigation, students are obliged to divulge all information that may be of assistance to resolving the situation.
- Sanctions will be applied to the following: (1) students who actively encourage bullying behaviour. (2) students who observe bullying behaviour and fail to report it.

# Reporting

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- Every person in the school has a duty to be alert and report incidents of bullying if witnessed.
- Students and the whole school community must be encouraged to tell if they are being bullied or if they are aware of someone else who is being bullied.



# Who/How to Tell...

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- An initial report of suspected bullying can be made to **any member of the school staff**.
  - This is often, but not always, the Form Teacher.
  - It might be a subject teacher, a Year Head, A Deputy Principal, the Principal, a Guidance Counsellor, a Special Needs Assistant, the Receptionist, etc.
  
- A student may also approach **a 6th Year Councillor, a student mentor or a friend**, however, it is the duty of these students to report the matter immediately to a teacher for follow up.

# Who/How to Tell...

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- A student may also like to request a meeting with a **Guidance Counsellor** by posting an appointment slip in to the red box outside the Guidance Counsellor's office door who will then arrange an appointment time with the student through the Form Teacher or via email.
- If a student needs a member of staff urgently and cannot find them, they should always ask for assistance at **Reception**.
- On page 7 in your journal: Write in 3 names of people you/your classmates could go to if you wanted to report suspected bullying.



# What happens after reporting?

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- The Year Head will speak to the student involved.
- This will direct what happens next.
- You can read more info on p.8 of the policy (on the school website: <https://olschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Policy-Anti-Bullying-March-2020.pdf> ) if you would like more detail.

# Why is our Anti-B policy so important?

‘Our Lady’s School believes that all members of the school community are **entitled** to a school environment, which is free from bullying and the fear of bullying.’

## Where is it?

- On the school website
- Referenced in your journal

