Nenagh Community National School
Principal: Mr. Conor D'Arcy M: 086 4137755
St Flannan's Street, T: 067 32005
Nenagh, W: www.nenaghcns.ie
Co Tipperary. E: nenaghcns@tipperary.ie
E45 W880
Roll No. 16344V

Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

The Board of Management of Nenagh C.N.S. has adopted the following policy to prevent and address bullying behaviour.

Nenagh Community National School is guided in all its work by the ETB and our GMGY ethos. We share with our community the responsibility for providing a rich, welcoming, encouraging and secure learning environment for all the children in our care. Our core root beliefs and values provide us with a focus for our multi denominational, inclusive identity. Through reinforcement from teachers and other staff, core values and root beliefs are clearly, consistently, and effectively communicated to each child in our care. Our school's core beliefs and values are:

- COMMUNITY - Working as a community strengthens learning.
- CARE - We care for the welfare, wellbeing and safety of our students and staff by creating safe and welcoming environments for learning and working. We have a culture that recognises and celebrates the achievements of students and staff
- RESPECT - A safe and caring environment fosters kindness, love and respect.
- EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION – We are committed to achieving the highest quality standards of teaching and learning,
- EQUALITY - We strive to ensure that all students, staff and members of our communities are afforded equal opportunity to participate in education and training, and that our work is based on a core respect for human rights and diversity. Our ways of working create an environment and culture where everyone feels involved, consulted and valued. We do this by listening and being open to other perspectives, respecting diversity and valuing alternative views.

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.*

- Bullying is 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.

Behaviour that is not bullying behaviour:

- If the repeated harm is real for the student experiencing the behaviour, but unintended by the other student, this is not bullying, but, importantly, must be addressed under the school's code of behaviour.
- Some students with special educational needs may have social communication difficulties which may make them communicate their needs through behaviours that can hurt themselves or others. It is important to note that these behaviours may not be deliberate or planned, but in certain situations, they are an automatic response which they cannot control. The school will specifically consider the additional needs of SEN pupils with regard to programme implementation and the development of skills and strategies to enable all pupils to respond appropriately.
- Disagreement between students is not considered bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

Types of Bullying Behaviour

There are many different types of bullying behaviour. These can include the following which is not an exhaustive list:

- disablist bullying behaviour: behaviour or language that intends to harm a student because of a perceived or actual disability or additional need.
- exceptionally able bullying: behaviour or language that intends to harm a student because of their high academic ability or outstanding talents.
- gender identity bullying: behaviour or language that intends to harm a student because of their perceived or actual gender identity.
- homophobic/transphobic (LGBTQ+) bullying: behaviour or language that intends to harm a student because of their perceived or actual membership of the LGBTQ+ community.
- physical appearance bullying: behaviour or language that intends to harm a student because of their physical appearance. Students who "look different" can be mocked or criticised about the shape, size or appearance of their body.
- racist bullying: behaviour or language that intends to harm a student because of their race or ethnic origin which includes membership of the Traveller or Roma community.
- Racism is defined in the National Action Plan Against Racism as "a form of domination

which manifests through those power dynamics present in structural and institutional arrangements, practices, policies and cultural norms, which have the effect of excluding or discriminating against individuals or groups, based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin".

- poverty bullying: behaviour that intends to humiliate a student because of a lack of resources.
- religious identity bullying: behaviour that intends to harm a student because of their religion or religious identity.
- sexist bullying: behaviour that intends to harm a student based on their sex, perpetuating stereotypes that a student or a group of students are inferior because of their sex.
- sexual harassment: any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct based on sex which affects the dignity of the student.

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.

	Date consulted	Method of consultation
School Staff	• 06/05/2025 • 16/05/2025 • 16/05/2025	• Staff consultation • Staff Meeting • Consult with SNAs
Students	• 20/05/2025 • 20/05/2025	• Pupil Focus Group • Pupil Survey 1st – 4th class
Parents	• 02/05/2025	• Parent Survey • Draft Policy distributed to parents for review
Board of Management	• BOM Meeting 20/01/2025- initial consultation	• Bí Cineálta Procedures discussed
Wider school community as appropriate, for example, bus drivers		• Bí Cineálta Policy uploaded on school website
Date policy was approved: 20/10/2025		
Date policy was last reviewed: 08/06/2026		

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 and Environment:

We strive to:

- Create a school culture where bullying behaviour is unacceptable and a consistent approach to addressing bullying behavior is adopted.
- Involve parents as active partners in fostering an environment where bullying behaviour is not tolerated.
- Support the idea that our school is a telling environment.
- Establish clear expectations for behaviour and enforce them consistently.
- Promote the concept of a trusted adult. This is promoted and reinforced through the yearly teaching of the Stay Safe and Walk Tall *Friendship* and *Bullying* topics.
- Create a positive school culture and climate which is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity; encourages pupils to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a non-threatening environment; and promotes respectful relationships across the school community.
- Foster and enhance the self-esteem of all our pupils through both curricular and extracurricular activities. Pupils will be provided opportunities to develop a positive sense of self-worth through formal and informal interactions. The following strategies and initiatives may be used:
    - Stay Safe, Walk Tall & RSE materials and associated videos.
    - Lunchtime sports activities during the school year that encourage inclusion and having fun playing with friends.
    - Acts of Kindness acknowledged by class teacher and principal.
    - Student 'shoutouts' at our school assemblies that highlight kindness and friendship.
    - Positive affirmations by teachers and staff in classrooms and on yard.
    - Student Council to allow and encourage pupil voice.
    - Green Schools/Active Flag committees.
    - Quite Space in classrooms.
    - School Wellbeing Area
    - A Code of Behaviour that rewards good behaviour – Golden Time every Friday.

Ways in which we work to achieve these goals are as follows:

- Staff are briefed on the uniform approach we must take to handle all reports of bullying.
- A Wellbeing Week will take place in October each year with an emphasis on kindness and friendship.
- Playground helpers – students in older class support infant classes on the yard to help with games and positive interactions.
- Yard Buddies to ensure that everyone has someone to play with at break times.
- Child Friendly Bí Cineálta Policy was formed with pupil and parent input and is distributed to parents, children and staff to discuss. This policy outlines various ways to tell.
- Parents receive information at times regarding useful information on Anti Bullying, Stay Safe and SPHE lessons which focus on positive behaviour.
- Effective supervision and monitoring of pupils.
- Celebrating school, class and individual achievements through our weekly assemblies.
- Foster positive relationships between pupils and staff members in order to nurture connections and establish open communication.

Curriculum (teaching and learning):

We strive to:

- Provide teaching and promote learning which is collaborative and respectful, fostering inclusion and respect for diversity.
- Display a shared understanding of what bullying is and its impact.

Ways in which we work to achieve this:

- Teach SPHE and RSE content which fosters students' well-being and self-confidence as well as promoting personal responsibility for their own behaviours and actions. One anti-bullying/friendship lesson at the start of each term.
- Implementation of the Stay Safe and Walk Tall Programmes.
- Online Safety education programmes and guest speakers to tie in with Internet Safety Day.
- Model respectful behaviour towards colleagues, pupils and visitors in our school environment.
- Curricular and extracurricular activities can help to develop a sense of self-worth, working together, inclusion and respect.
- Students are given regular opportunities to work in small groups with peers, which can help build a sense of connection, belonging and empathy.
- Acknowledgment of our diverse school population – celebrating diversity and culture in our school through art, displays and photographs.
- Support for staff including access to CPD when and as required.
- Consistent recording, investigation and follow up of bullying behavior.
- On-going evaluation of the effectiveness of the Bí Cineálta Policy through our yearly reviews.

Policy and planning

The aim of Nenagh C.N.S. Bí Cineálta policy is:

- To raise awareness of bullying as a form of unacceptable behaviour with school management, teachers, pupils, parents/guardians.
- To promote a school ethos and culture where all school community members treat each other with kindness and respect.
- To promote a school ethos which encourages children to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour.
- To ensure appropriate supervision and monitoring measures through which all areas of school activity are kept under observation.
- To develop procedures for noting, investigating and dealing with incidents of bullying behaviour.
- To implement a programme of support for those affected by bullying behaviour and for those involved in bullying behaviour.
- To work with appropriate agencies in countering all forms of bullying and promoting anti bullying behaviour.

The Acceptable Use Policy, Supervision policy, Special Education Policy, Code of Behaviour, RSE Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement all support the implementation of the Bí Cineálta policy.
Appropriate Teacher Professional Development will be planned for and organised in order to support the successful implementation of this policy.
Effective leadership is a key component with Principal, Deputy Principal, DLP, DDLP, and all members of the in-school leadership team focused on supporting the implementation of this policy.

Relationships and Partnerships

- Interpersonal connections are supported through a range of formal and informal structures such as our Parents Association, and our student council, committees and groups.
- Age and stage appropriate awareness initiatives that engage the student body in looking at their own behaviour – promoting acts of kindness and friendship, being an active help to others and looking at the causes of and impact of bullying during SPHE lessons.
- Conducting workshops and seminars for students, staff and parents to raise awareness of the impact of bullying.
- Positive home school links and relationships, help parents to communicate with teachers at an early stage if they suspect their child is being bullied.
- Encouraging peer mentoring and peer support
  - Playground Helpers & Yard Buddies
  - Wellbeing/Buddy Walks on the track
  - Buddy Reading, Science Share and other acitivites between older and younger classes.
- Supporting the active participation of students and parents in school life.
- The meaningful involvement of the board of management, staff, pupils and their parents in the development, implementation and review of the school's Bí Cineálta policy and student friendly version is actively pursued by the school through the regular use of discussion groups and surveys.

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):

Supervision and Monitoring

Staff at all times endeavour to encourage pupils to show respect for each other.

- A yard supervision rota is devised at the beginning of each term so that adequate and appropriate supervision is provided for on yard.
- An Acceptable Use Policy has been developed and will be regularly reviewed to ensure that pupils are aware of their responsibilities when accessing the internet in school and when using school devices.
- Staff are particularly vigilant in monitoring pupils who are considered at risk of bullying/being bullied.
- All disclosed incidents of bullying are investigated thoroughly and consistently by following the correct procedure as outlined to staff and recorded on specific school templates. Reports on bullying are stored in a specific folder in the principal's office.
- School wide awareness raising on all aspects of bullying, supervision and monitoring of classrooms, corridors, school grounds, school tours and extracurricular activities.
- The Acceptable Use Policy, Supervision policy, Special Education Policy, Code of Behaviour, RSE Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement all support the implementation of the Bí Cineálta policy.
- The pupils are actively involved in contributing to a safe and inclusive school environment. These messages are reinforced during our Wellbeing Week each October and at our school assemblies.
- Ensuring that pupils know who to tell and how to tell. The school actively encourages the concept of a 'trusted adult' through letting pupils know regularly that they can talk to them.
- Ensure bystanders understand the importance of telling if they witness or know that bullying is taking place.
- Promote online safety events or material for parents. The school regularly invites outside speakers to address parents and pupils about the importance of online safety.

Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour

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

- The class teacher (relevant teacher) will oversee recording of bullying reports for students in their class – this includes using the procedures guidelines to investigate reports of bullying and recording bullying behaviour.
- Principal will inform the Board of Management of incidents of bullying.

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):

Teacher/teachers investigates all instances of reported or suspected bullying behaviour with a view to establishing the facts and managing the behaviour.

In investigating and dealing with bullying, the teacher will exercise his/her professional judgement to determine whether bullying has occurred and how best the situation might be resolved. Teacher(s) should consider the following: who, what, where and when?

Teachers will be fair and consistent in their approach when addressing bullying behaviour reported by pupils, staff or parents.

Interviews will be conducted outside the classroom in a fair and consistent way. If a group has been involved, each member will be interviewed individually at first and, thereafter, as a group when each child will be asked for his/her account of what happened. It may be helpful to ask the students involved to write down their account of the incident.

The following principles must be adhered to when addressing bullying behaviour:

- Ensure that the student experiencing bullying behaviour feels listened to 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.

Non-teaching staff such as special needs assistants (SNAs), caretakers, cleaners are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying behaviour witnessed by them, or mentioned to them, to the class teacher.

School staff should know what to do when bullying behaviour is reported to them.

A school is not expected to deal with bullying behaviour that occurs when students are not under the care or responsibility of the school. However, where this bullying behaviour has an impact in school, schools are required to support the students involved. Where the bullying behaviour continues in school, schools should deal in accordance with their Bí Cineálta policy.

Both the student who is experiencing bullying behaviour and the student who is displaying bullying behaviour need support.

Parents are an integral part of the school community and play an important role, in partnership with schools, in addressing bullying behaviour.

The primary aim of the teacher investigating bullying is to resolve issues and to restore relationships. Ongoing supervision and support may be required for both the student who has experienced the bullying behaviour as well as the student who has displayed the bullying behaviour. In some cases, relationships may never be restored to how

they were before.

The parents/guardians of the parties involved will be contacted at an early stage to inform them of the matter and explain the actions being taken. The school will give parents/guardians an opportunity to discuss ways in which they can reinforce or support the actions being taken by the school and the support provided to the pupils.

It must also be made clear to all involved (each set of pupils and parents/guardians) that in any situation where disciplinary sanctions are required, this is a private matter (under GDPR) between the pupil being disciplined, his or her parents/guardians and the school.

When an investigation is completed and/or a bullying situation is resolved the teacher will complete a report, to include the findings of the investigation, the strategy adopted and the outcome of the intervention, as well as any other relevant information.

Behaviour reflection sheets filled out by pupils to be kept on their profile on Aladdin.

Staff will fill out a Bullying Incident report on Aladdin. This report will be attached to the child's profile on Aladdin.

The teacher must engage with the students and parents involved no more than 20 days after the initial discussion to review progress following the initial intervention.

If the bullying behaviour has not ceased the teacher should review the strategies used in consultation with the students involved and their parents. A timeframe should be agreed for further engagement until the bullying behaviour has ceased.

If it becomes clear that the student who is displaying the bullying behaviour is continuing to display the behaviour, then the school consideration should be given to using the strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour as provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour. If disciplinary sanctions are considered, this is a matter between the relevant student, their parents and the school.

If a parent(s)/guardian(s) is not satisfied with how the bullying behaviour has been addressed by the school, in accordance with the Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary Schools, they should be referred to the school's complaints procedures.

If a parent is dissatisfied with how a complaint has been handled, they may make a complaint to the Ombudsman for Children if they believe that the school's actions have had a negative effect on the student.

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):

The school's programme of support for working with pupils affected by bullying involves a whole school approach. Given the complexity of bullying behaviour, no one intervention/support programme works in all situations.

- **Supporting Bullied pupils:**
  - Ending the bullying behavior.
  - Fostering respect for bullied pupils and all pupils.
  - Fostering greater empathy towards and support for bullied pupils.
  - Indicating clearly that the bullying is not the fault of the targeted pupil through annual awareness-raising programmes.
  - Indicating clearly that the bullying is not the fault of the targeted pupil through the speedy identification of those responsible and speedy resolution of bullying situations.
  - Making adequate counselling facilities available to pupils who need it in a timely manner (subject to available funding).
  - Helping bullied pupils raise their self-esteem by encouraging them to become involved in activities

that help develop friendships and social skills (e.g. participation in group work in class and in extra-curricular group or team activities during or after school).

- **Supporting Bullying pupils:**

  - Making it clear that bullying pupils who reform are not blamed or punished and get a 'clean sheet'.
  - Making it clear that bullying pupils who reform are doing the right and honourable thing and giving them praise for this.
  - Making adequate counselling facilities available to help those who need to learn other ways of meeting their needs besides violating the rights of others (subject to available funding).
  - Helping those who need to raise their self-esteem by encouraging them to become involved in activities that develop friendships and social skills (e.g. participation in group work in class and in extra-curricular group or team activities during or after school).
  - Using learning strategies throughout the school and the curriculum to help enhance pupils' feelings of self-worth.
  - In dealing with negative behavior in general, encouraging teachers and parents to focus on, challenge and correct the behaviour while supporting the child, - In dealing with bullying behaviour seeking resolution and offering a fresh start with a 'clean sheet' and no blame in return for keeping a promise to reform.

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 on request. A student friendly version of this policy is displayed in the school and is also available on our website and in hard copy on request.

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:__ Virginia O'Dowd _____ Date: __08/06/2026_____

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: ___ Conor D'Arcy _____ Date: __08/06/2026_____

(Principal)