

# Anti-Bullying Policy

## 1 Definition

Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others.

## 2 General Statement

Every student has the right to enjoy learning and leisure time in school.

Bullying and intimidation of others is completely unacceptable. Unkind actions or remarks are unacceptable even if these are not intended to hurt.

Bullies rely on our silence. It is important that bullying behaviour be reported at all times. Sligo Grammar School is a “telling” school.

## 3 Student Ethos

*The school emphasises politeness, courtesy and co-operation and respect for others and their property as fundamental principles of behaviour. Sligo Grammar School is committed to providing an atmosphere of tolerance and openness which respects the dignity of every member of the school community and in which each one can feel valued. Every member of the school community has the right to happiness and the right to learn and no one has the right to take these away from them.*

This is a clear part of the ethos of Sligo Grammar School and is stated in unambiguous terms in the Code of Behaviour. Acceptance of a place in Sligo Grammar School is taken as acceptance of this ethos.

The school communicates this ethos by:

- 1 Sending all parents/guardians a copy of the School Code of Behaviour to be signed and accepted by all pupils and parents
- 2 Informing all 1<sup>st</sup> Year students in their first month in the school that Sligo Grammar School does not tolerate bullying behaviour.
- 3 Publishing and displaying **Our School Code** throughout the school (see appendix)
- 4 Dealing with the issue of bullying in the following subject areas: SPHE, CSPE, Religious Education, and English
- 5 Running a specific anti-bullying module with all year groups.
- 6 Morning Assembly which regularly makes reference to the rights of all at school to feel secure, and to the General Statement outlined above

#### **4 Procedures should bullying occur in the school**

All reports of bullying should be made to the Form Teacher or any teacher. Teachers in Sligo Grammar School take all forms of bullying seriously.

The Teacher and/or Form Teacher and/or Deputy Principal will investigate the initial report. The alleged bully will be interviewed and may be asked for a written account of his/her version of the incident.

The victim will be referred to either the Counsellor, Chaplain, Form Teacher or any teacher with whom s/he feels comfortable. The victim will be asked for his/her version of events and may be asked for a written account should this be thought necessary.

The victim will be assured that they are entitled to a school environment free of any intimidation or bullying and will be encouraged to report any further incidents as soon as they occur. This may be by direct pupil-teacher communication or through a parent.

The teachers involved will compare notes.

Should it be judged that serious bullying has occurred the teachers involved may inform the Deputy Principal or Principal as appropriate.

In all cases of bullying the bully will be informed that his/her behaviour is unacceptable. Parents will be informed and/or invited to an interview at the school in cases of repeated or serious bullying offences.

Counselling will be offered to both the bully and the victim as thought necessary and following contact with and discussion with the parents involved.

#### **5 Persistent or Serious Bullying**

When serious or persistent bullying/intimidation occurs parents may be invited to an interview with the Deputy Principal or Principal. In such situations parents and students will be informed in clear terms of the content and meaning of sections 1, 2 and 3 of this policy. Students may be requested to reaffirm their commitment to the School Code of Behaviour and acceptance of this Anti-Bullying Code in writing.

If necessary, reference will be made to the Code of Behaviour Sections 5.2, 8.1 and 8.2

Reference may also be made to the Admissions Policy of the School which states:

*“The Principal reserves the right to remove from the school register any student who puts the health and welfare of other students or staff at risk, or any student who engages in persistent or serious misbehaviour which undermines the ethos of the school or undermines the education of other students.”*

Sligo Grammar School reserves the right at all times to protect the school community in its care from intimidating or bullying behaviour.

# Sligo Grammar School

## Our School Code

1. Every student has the right to enjoy learning and leisure time in school.
2. Unkind actions or remarks are unacceptable even if these were not meant to hurt.
3. We should support each other by asking for help when we know someone has a problem.
4. Listen and learn from the views of others.
5. Respect other people's property.
6. We are all responsible for our school environment.

Approved by Staff  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Approved by Board  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2005