

ST. JOSEPH'S N.S.  
TOM BELLEW AVENUE  
DUNDALK  
CO. LOUTH  
IRELAND



Roll No.: 19673J  
Phone: +353 42 9337170  
Email: schooloffice@sjns.ie  
Principal: Dr. Rosalyn Morris  
Chairperson: Sr. Joan Watters  
Registered Charity: 20129132

## ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

***In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 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.*

Active Partners in the compilation of our revised Anti-Bullying Policy include:

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

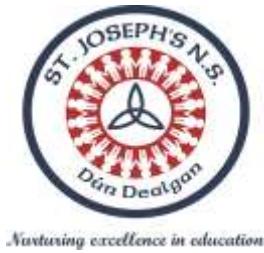
**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

**ALL STAFF MEMBERS**

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

The policy will be published on our school website in the near future. A copy of this policy is available to the Department and the school patron.



## Anti- Bullying Policy

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and the code of behaviour guidelines issued by the NEWB, the Board of Management of **St Joseph's** has **adopted the following anti-bullying policy** within the framework of the school's overall code of behaviour. This policy fully complies with the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools which were published in **September 2013**. St Joseph's is a KIVA school and as such, KIVA principles and procedures surrounding anti-bullying are implemented in a systematic way throughout the school. All teachers have been trained up and inducted by KIVA trainers from the Genesis team since 2018.

**THIS POLICY MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCHOOLS OVERALL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR AND EXISTING ANTI BULLYING MEASURES AND PROCEDURES.**

2. The Board of Management recognises the very serious nature of bullying and the negative impact that it can have on the lives of pupils and is therefore fully committed to the following **key principles of best practice** in preventing and tackling bullying behaviour:

**(a) 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;

**St Joseph's is a KiVa school. We follow the KiVa anti-bullying programme and we consider the following to be key elements of a positive school culture:**

- We acknowledge the right of each member of the school community to enjoy school in a secure environment
- We acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual and their worth as a human being
- We promote positive habits of self-respect, self-discipline and responsibility among all its members.
- We actively discourage vulgar, offensive, sectarian or other aggressive behaviour by any of its members
- We have a clear commitment to promoting equity in general and gender equity in particular in all aspects of its functioning
- We have the capacity to change in response to its pupils needs
- We identify aspects of its curriculum through which positive and sustainable influences can be exerted towards forming pupils attitudes and values



- We take particular care of 'at risk' pupils and uses its systems to identify needs and facilitate early intervention where necessary –thus responding to the needs, fears & anxieties of individual members in a sensitive manner
- *St Joseph's recognises the need to work in partnership with and keep parents informed on procedures to improve relationships within the school community.*
- *We recognise the right of parents to share in the task of equipping pupils with a range of life skills.*
- We recognise the role of other community agencies in preventing and dealing with bullying
- We promote habits of mutual respect, courtesy and an awareness of the interdependence of people in groups and communities
- We promote qualities of social responsibility, tolerance and understanding among its members both in school and outside of school
- Staff members share a collegiate responsibility, under the direction of the Principal, to act in preventing bullying/aggressive behaviour by ANY MEMBER of the school community

#### (b) Effective leadership

- The BOM has overall responsibility to ensure that this policy is effective, sustainable and measured. The BOM must ensure that accountability is of the highest standard and frequently appraise the outcomes of the strategies and measures contained within the policy
- ISM Team - (**Named in Appendix A**) - have a clear role to act in a leadership capacity within the school community, stimulating a whole school approach to preventing and tackling bullying – and modelling best practice. Reports of bullying are assessed by the relevant AP1 and then referred to the school's KiVa team if appropriate.
- The Principal of *St Joseph's* as key leader strongly influences attitudes and sets standards in relation to dealing with bullying
- Teachers must act as good role models and not misuse authority, but be fair, clear and consistent in their disciplinary measures.
- The KiVa team receive training and support from Genesis and act as leaders in the area of bullying.

#### (c) A school-wide approach

- A whole community approach to the problem of bullying is required and St Joseph's School community comprises of management, teachers, non-teaching staff, pupils, parents/guardians
- Beyond the school community, bullying behaviour may extend to outside of school. Where this negatively impacts on a school - **parents and pupils have a responsibility to support the school in helping to address the issue.** This applies particularly (but not exclusively) to cyber bullying.
- The assistance of Gardaí, Tusla and Community Workers may be required in some cases
- Collective vigilance is needed throughout the whole school/community sector to identify and deal with issues around bullying in a fair and equitable manner



**(d) A shared understanding of what bullying is and its impact**

- St Joseph's endeavours to put in place appropriate systems to ensure that ALL relevant members of the school community (parents, pupils, staff and the wider community) have a shared understanding of what constitutes bullying behaviour as defined in this policy (Section 2&3 of Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools)

**(e) Implementation of education and prevention strategies see section 5 of this policy, (including awareness raising measures) that-**

- build empathy, respect and resilience in pupils; and
- explicitly address the issues of cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying including in particular, homophobic and transphobic bullying;
- effective supervision and monitoring of pupils;

**(f) Effective supervision and monitoring of pupils**

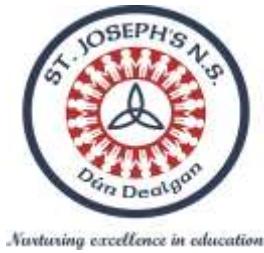
- Staff members have a distinct responsibility to ensure that supervision of pupils in class is effective and consistent
- **Supervision in playground areas are managed and conducted effectively, with particular attention given to 'hot spots' or 'hot times' e.g. arrival & dismissal**
- Student Council are consulted and engaged in a supervisory role, suitable to their capacity and understanding of the issues involved both in class and in the playground
- Office Staff are well placed to inform if any behaviour which may constitute bullying is noticed

**(g) Supports for staff**

- Regular discussion and review of policy and procedures is essential to support staff on a continuous basis
- All staff have a uniform interpretation of what is expected in relation to bullying, how to identify possible bullying behaviours, how to manage disclosures and how to deal effectively with incidents of bullying within the classroom context
- Staff are aware that supporting one another is a key aspect of prevention and new/inexperienced members of staff must be given every opportunity to discuss concerns and model best practice
- CPD in relation to Anti Bullying Strategies regularly occurs in St Joseph's for all members of staff
- Staff are trained in the delivery of the KiVa anti-bullying programme and receive support from Genesis personnel in this.
- Staff (from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class) are supplied with KiVa resources for delivery of the programme.

**(h) Consistent recording, investigation and follow up of bullying behaviour (including use of established intervention strategies); KiVa standardised documentation is used to record all allegations and investigations.**

**(i) On-going evaluation of the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy.**



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**3. In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 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.

The following types of bullying behaviour are included in the definition of bullying:

- Deliberate exclusion, malicious gossip and other forms of relational bullying,
- Cyber-bullying and
- Identity-based bullying such as homophobic bullying, racist bullying, bullying based on a person's membership of the Traveller community and bullying of those with disabilities or special educational needs.

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and should be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

However, in the context of this policy, 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 or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

Negative behaviour that does not meet this definition of bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

**Bullying Behaviours which St Joseph's School has identified as relevant to our context:**

<b>General behaviours which apply to all types of bullying</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harassment based on any of the nine grounds in the equality legislation e.g. sexual harassment, homophobic bullying, racist bullying etc.</li> <li>• Physical aggression</li> <li>• Damage to property</li> <li>• Name calling</li> <li>• Slagging</li> <li>• The production, display or circulation of written words, pictures or other materials aimed at intimidating another person</li> <li>• Offensive graffiti</li> <li>• Extortion</li> <li>• Intimidation</li> <li>• Insulting or offensive gestures</li> <li>• Invasion of personal space</li> <li>• A combination of any of the types listed.</li> </ul>
<b>Cyber</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Denigration:</b> Spreading rumors, lies or gossip to hurt a person's reputation</li> <li>• <b>Harassment:</b> Continually sending vicious, mean or</li> </ul>



	<p>disturbing messages to an individual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Impersonation:</b> Posting offensive or aggressive messages under another person's name</li> <li>• <b>Flaming:</b> Using inflammatory or vulgar words to provoke an online fight</li> <li>• <b>Trickery:</b> Fooling someone into sharing personal information which you then post online</li> <li>• <b>Outing:</b> Posting or sharing confidential or compromising information or images</li> <li>• <b>Exclusion:</b> Purposefully excluding someone from an online group</li> <li>• <b>Cyber stalking:</b> Ongoing harassment and denigration that causes a person considerable fear for his/her safety</li> <li>• Silent telephone/mobile phone call</li> <li>• Abusive telephone/mobile phone calls</li> <li>• Abusive text messages</li> <li>• Abusive email</li> <li>• Abusive communication on social networks e.g. Facebook/Ask.fm/ Twitter/You Tube or on games consoles</li> <li>• Abusive website comments/Blogs/Pictures</li> <li>• Abusive posts on any form of communication technology</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identity Based Behaviours</b></p> <p><b>Including any of the nine discriminatory grounds mentioned in Equality Legislation</b> (gender including transgender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community).</p>	
<b>Homophobic and Transgender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spreading rumours about a person's sexual orientation</li> <li>• Taunting a person of a different sexual orientation</li> <li>• Name calling e.g. Gay, queer, lesbian...used in a derogatory manner</li> <li>• Physical intimidation or attacks</li> <li>• Threats</li> </ul>
<b>Race, nationality, ethnic background and membership of the Traveller community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrimination, prejudice, comments or insults about colour, nationality, culture, social class, religious beliefs, ethnic or traveller background</li> <li>• Exclusion on the basis of any of the above</li> </ul>
<b>Relational</b>	<p>This involves manipulating relationships as a means of bullying. Behaviours include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malicious gossip</li> <li>• Isolation &amp; exclusion</li> <li>• Ignoring</li> <li>• Excluding from the group</li> <li>• Taking someone's friends away</li> <li>• "Bitching"</li> <li>• Spreading rumours</li> <li>• Breaking confidence</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking loud enough so that the victim can hear</li> <li>The “look”</li> <li>Use or terminology such as ‘nerd’ in a derogatory way</li> </ul>
Sexual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unwelcome or inappropriate sexual comments or touching</li> <li>Harassment</li> </ul>

**4. The relevant teachers for investigating and dealing with bullying in accordance with the Anti - Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools – section 6:7.6, 6:7.7 - are as follows:**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| • Principal          | Dr Roz Morris  |
| • Deputy Principal   | Mr Shane McEntee   |
| • Dept. Heads        | Anthony Keenan      4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
|                      | Karol Caulfield      1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
|                      | Avril Callan      Infants  |
| • KiVa Team          |  |
| • All class teachers |  |
| • Care Team Members  |  |
| • HSCL Teacher       | Kathryn Thomas   |

**5. The following education and prevention strategies (including strategies specifically aimed at cyber-bullying, homophobic and transphobic bullying) will be used by St Joseph's. (Ref: Section 6.5 of the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools):**

**Education and prevention strategies**

**School-wide approach**

A school-wide approach to the fostering of respect for all members of the school community.

- The promotion of the value of diversity to address issues of prejudice and stereotyping, and highlight the unacceptability of bullying behaviour.
- The fostering and enhancing of the self-esteem of all our pupils through both curricular and extracurricular activities. Pupils will be provided with opportunities to develop a **positive sense of self-worth** through formal and informal interactions.
- Whole staff professional development on bullying to ensure that all staff develops an awareness of what bullying is, how it impacts on pupils' lives and the need to respond to it-prevention and intervention.
- An annual audit of professional development needs with a view to assessing staff requirements through internal staff knowledge/expertise and external sources
- Professional development with specific focus on the training of the relevant teachers



- School wide awareness raising and training on all aspects of bullying, to include pupils, parents/guardians and the wider school community.
- Supervision and monitoring of classrooms, corridors, school grounds, school tours and extra-curricular activities. Non-teaching and ancillary staff are vigilant and report issues to relevant teachers.
- Involvement of the student council in contributing to a safe school environment e.g. Buddy system, mentoring, Lunchtime Buddies and other student support activities that can help to support pupils and encourage a culture of peer respect and support.
- Development and promotion of an Anti-Bullying code for the school-to be displayed publicly in classrooms and in common areas of the school.
- The school's anti-bullying policy is discussed with pupils and all parents/guardians are given a copy as part of the Code of Behaviour of the school on enrolment.
- The implementation of regular whole school awareness measures e.g. a dedicated notice board in classrooms on the promotion of friendship, and bullying prevention; annual Anti Bullying Week and parents/guardians seminars organised by P/A.; student surveys during **Anti-Bullying Week**; regular school assemblies by Principal, Deputy Principal, Dept. Heads or HSCL
- Encourage a culture of telling, with particular emphasis on the importance of bystanders. Pupils will gain confidence in 'telling'. This confidence factor is of vital importance. It is made clear to all pupils that when they report incidents of bullying they are not considered to be telling tales but are behaving responsibly.
- Ensuring that pupils know who to tell and how to tell:
- 
- **PROTOCOL FOR CHILDREN: CULTURE OF TELLING**
- Tell issue immediately to a member of staff in the classroom / yard. Staff member will investigate at an appropriate time
- **PROTOCOL FOR PARENTS**
- Make a phone call to the school and ask to speak to the Principal, Deputy Principal or HSCL or put a note in diary.
- The issue will initially be investigated by Dept. Head / HSCL / Deputy Principal / Principal
- Get a parent/guardian or friend to tell on your behalf.
- Please call the Principal's office if you suspect a child is being bullied or you witness bullying
- Our Acceptable Use Policy includes the necessary steps to ensure that the access to technology within the school is strictly monitored.

#### **Implementation of curricula**

- St Joseph's fully implements the SPHE and the RS, Stay Safe and the KiVa Programmes
- Continuous Professional Development for staff in delivering these programmes is available
- School wide delivery of lessons on bullying from evidence based programmes.
- School wide delivery of lessons on **Relational aggression** (Cool School Programme: A Friend in Deed), **Cyber Bullying** (#UP2US, Be Safe-Be Web wise, Think Before you Click, Let's Fight it Together, Web wise Primary teachers' resources), **Homophobic and Transphobic Bullying** (Growing up LGBT, Stand Up Programme, The Trust pack )**Diversity and Inter-culturalism**, Yellow Flag Programme.
- Delivery of the Garda SPHE Programmes at primary level. These lessons, delivered by Community Gardaí, cover issues around personal safety and cyber-bullying



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- The school considers 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.
- The school considers the implement of advice in "Sexual Orientation advice for schools" (RSE Primary, see booklet).
- Outside bodies deliver programmes on safe usage of social media platforms e.g. 'Don't be Mean Behind Your Screen' – Paula O'Connor

### Links to other policies

Hereunder is a List of school policies, practices and activities that are linked to 'Anti-Bullying policy':

- Code of Behaviour, Child Protection Policy,  
Acceptable Use Policy, Attendance, Tour / Field Trip Policy,  
Swimming Policy, SEN Policy

### Appendix A: Care Team Members:

#### 6.8.9. Procedures for Investigating and Dealing with Bullying

The primary aim in investigating and dealing with bullying is to resolve any issues and to restore, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved (rather than to apportion blame);

The school's procedures are consistent with the following approach.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all involved (including pupils, parents/guardians) understand this approach from the outset.

#### Reporting bullying behaviour

- Any pupil or parent(s)/guardian(s) may bring a bullying incident to any teacher in the school.
- All reports, including anonymous reports of bullying, will be investigated and dealt with by the Dept. Heads, Deputy Principal / Principal and the KiVa team.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff such as secretaries, special needs assistants (SNAs), bus escorts, caretakers, cleaners must report any incidents of bullying behaviour witnessed by them, or mentioned to them, to the relevant teacher;
- Investigating and dealing with incidents: Style of approach (see section 6.8.9)
- In investigating and dealing with bullying, the Dept. Heads will exercise a **professional judgement to determine whether bullying has occurred and how best the situation might be resolved**;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupils are required to co-operate with any investigation and assist the school in resolving any issues and restoring, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved as quickly as possible;
- Teachers take a calm, unemotional problem-solving approach.
- When appropriate, incidents are investigated outside the classroom situation to ensure the privacy of all involved;
- **All interviews are conducted with sensitivity and with due regard to the rights of all pupils concerned.** Pupils who are not directly involved can also provide very useful information in this way.



- When analysing incidents of bullying behaviour, the relevant teacher uses restorative practice techniques and the KiVa programme. This is done in a **calm manner**, setting an example in dealing effectively with a conflict in a non-aggressive manner;
- If a group is involved, each member is interviewed individually at first. Thereafter, all those involved meet as a group. At the group meeting, each member is asked for his/her account of what happened to ensure that everyone in the group is clear about each other's statements;
- Each member of a group is supported through the possible pressures that may face them from the other members of the group after the interview by the teacher;
- When appropriate those involved may write down their account of the incident(s)
- In cases where it has been determined by the Dept. Head / senior management that bullying behaviour has occurred, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the parties involved are contacted at an early stage to inform them of the matter and explain the actions being taken (by reference to the school policy). The school gives parent(s)/guardian(s) an opportunity of discussing ways in which they can reinforce or support the actions being taken by the school and the supports provided to the pupils;
- Where the Dept. Head / senior management has determined that a pupil has been engaged in bullying behaviour, it is made clear to he/she fully how he/she is in breach of the school's anti-bullying policy and he/she is encouraged to try to see the situation from the perspective of the pupil being bullied;
- It must also be made clear to all involved (each set of pupils and parent(s)/guardian(s)) that in any situation where disciplinary sanctions are required, this is a private matter between the pupil being disciplined, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school;**

#### Follow up and recording

- In determining whether a bullying case has been adequately and appropriately addressed the Dept. Head / senior management, as part of their professional judgement, takes the following factors into account:
  - Whether the bullying behaviour has ceased;
  - Whether any issues between the parties have been resolved as far as is practicable;
  - Whether the relationships between the parties have been restored as far as is practicable;
  - Any feedback received from the parties involved, their parent(s)/guardian(s)s or the school Principal or Deputy Principal
- Follow-up meetings with the relevant parties involved are arranged separately with a view to possibly bringing them together at a later date if the pupil who has been bullied is ready and agreeable. Restorative Practice Techniques are used.
- Where a parent(s)/guardian(s) is not satisfied that the school has dealt with a bullying case in accordance with these procedures, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must be referred, as appropriate, to the school's complaints procedures.



- In the event that a parent(s)/guardian(s) has exhausted the school's complaints procedures and is still not satisfied, the school must advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman for Children.

### Recording of bullying behaviour

Recording of bullying incidents is done in an objective and factual manner.

The school's procedures for noting and reporting bullying behaviour are as follows:

#### Informal- pre-determination that bullying has occurred

- All staff keeps a written record of any incidents witnessed by them or notified to them. These are kept in Class Profile or Teacher Yearbook. All incidents are reported to the Dept. Head.
- While all reports, including anonymous reports of bullying are investigated and dealt with by senior management, the Principal keeps a written record of the reports, the actions taken and any discussions with those involved regarding same. These are kept in the Principals office in a separate file.
- The Dept. Heads must inform the principal of all incidents being investigated and provide written reports.
- The KiVa screening form is completed for all allegations

#### Formal Stage 1-determination that bullying has occurred

- If it is established by the Dept. Heads / senior management that bullying has occurred, the case is referred to the KiVa team for further investigation and recording.
- All records will be stored by the KiVa team and a file will be kept by the Principal.
- All records are kept and archived at the end of each academic year.

#### Formal Stage 2-Appendix 3 (From DES Procedures)

The recording template attached is used to record the bullying behaviour in the following circumstance:

- a) All confirmed instances of bullying behaviour must be recorded and reported immediately to the Principal or Deputy Principal as applicable.
- b) The recording template is retained by the relevant Dept. Head and a copy maintained by the Principal on school file
- c) Teachers' records are retained in a secure space in the teachers' classroom. All report templates given to the Principal will be retained in the filing cabinet in the Principals Office.

#### Established intervention strategies

- Teacher interviews with all pupils
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- Negotiating agreements between pupils and following these up by monitoring progress. This can be on an informal basis or implemented through a more structured mediation process
- Working with parent/guardian to support school interventions
- No Blame Approach
- Circle Time
- Restorative interviews
- Restorative conferencing
- Implementing questionnaires

St Joseph's is committed to exploring these interventions further:

- The traditional successful disciplinary approach
- Strengthening the victim
- Mediation
- Restorative Practice
- The Support Group Method
- The Method of Shared Concern

**7. The school's programme of support for working with pupils affected by bullying is as follows (Ref 6:8:16 of Procedures):**

- All in-school supports and opportunities will be provided for the pupils affected by bullying to participate in activities designed to raise their self-esteem, to develop friendships and social skills and build resilience e.g.
  - SPHE Lessons
  - Stay Safe Programme
  - Walk Tall
  - NEPS programmes on [www.neps.ie](http://www.neps.ie)
  - Anti Bullying Week
  - Buddy system
  - Care Team Support incl Social Skills Group
    - Group work such as circle time
- If pupils require counselling or further supports the school will endeavour to liaise with the appropriate agencies to organise same. **NEPS will also be contacted for advice**
- Pupils should understand that there are no innocent bystanders and that all incidents of bullying behaviour must be reported to a teacher.



## 8. Supervision and Monitoring of Pupils

The Board of Management confirms that appropriate supervision and monitoring policies and Practices are in place to both prevent and deal with bullying behaviour and to facilitate early intervention where possible.

- There are agreed supervision and monitoring practices in the school
- Mobile phones are not permitted on school tours/outings except in special circumstances
- Bullying danger spots have been identified as the playground, area by pre-school, front exit area, toilets, resource rooms, corridors, school tours/trips, after school activities and swimming lessons.
- School Community have been consulted in the identification of these danger spots
- Pupils are involved as a resource to assist in counteracting bullying through the Student Council.
- I
- In relation to Acceptable Use Policy in the school the following issues are addressed:
- All internet sessions are supervised by a teacher
- The school regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage within school time.
- Pupils been instructed to access only those discussion forums and messaging or other electronic communication fora that have been approved by the school?

(Note that the Schools Broadband Programme has blocked all social networking sites on the basis that they waste time and take up too much of the bandwidth which is been provided for educational purposes only).

## **9. Prevention of Harassment**

*The Board of Management confirms that the school will, in accordance with its obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the sexual harassment of pupils or staff or the harassment of pupils or staff on any of the nine grounds specified i.e. gender including transgender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.*

This policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and is readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the **Parents' Association who were active partners in its compilation**. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and be readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the Parents' Association. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

**This policy was ratified by the B.O.M in December 2017**

**Reviewed and amended on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Reviewed and amended on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Reviewed and amended on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

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**The Board of Management of St Joseph's N.S. reserves the right, in consultation with the education partners to review and modify the Anti-Bullying Policy as necessary.**

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Sr. Joan Watters

Chairperson of BoM

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Dr Roz Morris

Principal/Secretary to the BoM