

Procedures for reporting concerns about bullying behaviour in school

Report your concerns to your child's form teacher;

If you are not satisfied the concern should be reported to the Vice-Principal Karen Caulfield.

If you are still not satisfied that appropriate action has been taken, the concern should be reported to the Principal Steve Pagan

If you are still unhappy, you can make a written complaint to the Chair of the Board of Governors

If you have exhausted the school's complaints process, you can raise the matter with the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO) who can examine whether the school has followed its policies correctly.

Further Support

The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) has produced a toolkit for parents and carers around working with their child's school to address bullying concerns. This resource, and more help and support, can be found on the NIABF website at Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum toolkit <http://www.endbullying.org.uk/publications/pc-toolkit/>



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SHIMNA
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Anti-Bullying Guidance for Parents/Carers



2025—2026

Anti Bullying

Guidance for parents/ carers

The law about bullying in schools has changed. The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016 was introduced on 1 September 2021

The Act requires schools to have in place measures aimed at preventing bullying behaviour:

- On the school premises, during the school day;
- While travelling to and from school;
- While in the lawful charge of a member of school staff (e.g. school trips)



Definition of the Act of Bullying

In Shimna College, we have agreed that the act of bullying can be defined as follows:-

"Bullying is a behaviour which is usually repeated and which is carried out intentionally to hurt or harm another person. Bullying behaviour causes the most harm when the hurtful behaviour is repeated again and again. Bullying can also be a serious one off incident."

Bullying can take many different forms. It could be:

- Physical - like hitting, kicking or punching.
- Verbal - like calling someone nasty names or teasing them.
- Written down – physically, electronically, or posted online for others to see.
- Deliberate exclusion - repeatedly leaving someone to make that person feel bad.
- Bullying can be a mix of a few or all of these behaviours.

Our agreed definition of bullying behaviour and the measures we have in place to deal with any bullying incidents are detailed in our Addressing Bullying policy which can be accessed on the College website.

www.shimnaintegratedcollege.org.uk

Intention to cause harm

The intention to cause harm is a key aspect of bullying behaviour. Bullying is not just playing around or having a laugh. It's not an accident or someone feeling hurt when that wasn't meant to be the outcome. An individual argument, falling out between friends or even a fight will usually not be bullying. Bullying is when one person, or a group of people, do something intentionally to cause hurt to others; particularly when that intentional behaviour is repeated.

While the Act does allow schools to treat one-off incidents as bullying, this should be a very rare occurrence and each school's Anti-Bullying Policy will explain how the school will decide whether to take this unusual step.

'Kind Hearts are the Gardens' By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Kind hearts are the gardens,

Kind thoughts are the roots,

Kind words are the flowers,

Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden,

And keep out the weeds,

Fill it with sunshine;

Kind words and kind deeds.