S N Mhuire, Moynalvey A83KD81 Email: office@moynlaveyns.ie Website: www.moynalveyns.ie

Telephone: 0469557416/ 0830861407 Roll number: 18344I

Principal: Mícheál Brennan Deputy Principal: Anna Flynn

Bí Cineálta Policy to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour

SN Mhuire (Moynalvey NS)

The Board of Management of **SN Mhuire (Moynalvey NS)** has adopted the following policy to prevent and address bullying behaviour. 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* as 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.

Each school is required to develop and implement a Bí Cineálta policy that sets out how the school community prevents and addresses bullying behaviour. Strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour that is not bullying behaviour are provided for within the school's Code of Behaviour.

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	19th October 2026	Issue discussed at staff meeting on 1st October 2026. All staff were invited to fill in a survey using Google forms which was left open until 23rd October 2026. This was communicated via email. N=2
Students	9th November 2026	2nd to 6th Class were invited to fill in a survey using Google forms. This was to be done during class times during the week of November 9th 2026. N=59
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	6th May 2026	All parents were invited to fill in a survey using Google forms which was left open until 15th May 2026. This was communicated via Aladdin. N=9
Board of Management	16th November 2026	Open forum at BoM meeting where Bí Cineálta was put on the agenda and discussed.
Wider school community as appropriate, for example, bus drivers	13th November 2026	Rang Neill, our bus providers in regards to anti-bullying to/from the school on the bus.
Date policy was approved: 26.05.2025 (original), 16.11.2026 (annual)		

Date policy was last reviewed: 16.11.2026

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):
• Monthly anti-bullying lessons under the *Break Through the Clouds of Bullying* scheme • SPHE lessons from *Walk Tall* and *Stay Safe* lessons • Anti-bullying surveys "Wellbeing Surveys" done a regular basis • Friendship weeks where anti-bullying is discussed and debated • Guest speakers to visit the school to speak about bullying • Anti-bullying noticeboard in the corridor, similar to the Code of Behaviour • Weekly assemblies where positive behaviour is praised and reminders of misbehaviours are given.
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):
• Child Safeguarding policy and risk assessment, ratified by BoM 21st September 2026 • Supervision policy, ratified by BoM 31st March 2025 • Code of behaviour, ratified by BoM 20th January 2025 with addendum 1 ratified by BoM 31st March 2025 • Acceptable Use policy, ratified by BoM 9th February 2026 • Whistleblowing policy, ratified by BoM 12th May 2021

Section C: Addressing Bullying Behaviour

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

- Mícheál Brennan, principal
- Anna Flynn, deputy principal

- Delia Dorgan, assistant principal II
- Clíodhna Ní Thailtigh, teacher
- Leah McCormack, teacher
- Emma O'Brien, teacher
- Anne O'Brien, teacher
- Aleisha Brady, teacher
- Sarah Kelly, PRD teacher

When bullying behaviour occurs, the school will:

- ensure that the student experiencing bullying behaviour is heard 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 parent(s)/guardian(s) of those involved

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):
Bullying can be reported in the following ways Moynalvey NS: • Through the use of an anti-bullying surveys. • Observations noted by school stakeholders such as teaching staff, school secretary, older pupils, • Disclosures from pupils/parent(s)/guardian(s)/other stakeholders Once a report about bullying has been made it will be investigated with the following steps: 1. Incidents involving bullying will be dealt with by the class teacher at an initial stage. The class teacher will note any reports/disclosures personally. 2. The class teacher will organise supervision for his/her class and then conduct a one-to-one

interview with all students involved. Another teacher such as SET or PRD teacher will be present to support both the child and the class teacher.

3. The interview will consist of open and closed ended questions to determine the nature of allegation. This follows the principles of all investigations: the right to be heard and the right to impartiality. The questions will ultimately determine whether the incident was:
    i. Hurtful
    ii. Deliberated
    iii. Repeated
4. After the questions about the incidents have been asked there will be a discussion on emotions and feelings surrounding the allegation. The focus will always be to develop empathy on the part of all students involved.
5. If during the investigation it is found that bullying behaviour has occurred, the student who engaged with the bullying behaviour will be asked to make a promise. Provided the bullying does not recur, the student will not receive a sanction. However they will be reminded of the consequences if they break the promise or engage in bullying behaviour again namely a Yellow Card as per the Code of Behaviour.
6. In all cases, the interview ends on a positive note where the student is thanked for their honesty.
7. The class teacher will ring the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child who has engaged in bullying behaviour. They will differentiate between "being a bully" and "bullying behaviour." The class teacher will explain that that every child should have a chance and that their child has "made a promise not to engage in bullying behaviour again." The class teacher will explain that there will be no sanction provided the bullying stops. The class teacher follows up with a phonecall a month later to check in.
8. The class teacher will ring the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child who has been the victim of the bullying behaviour. The class teacher will explain that the incident has been dealt with as per the school's Bí Cineálta policy and Code of Behaviour. The class teacher will explain that that every child should have a chance and that the child who has engaged in bullying behaviour has "made a promise not to engage in bullying behaviour again." The class teacher will explain that there will be no sanction provided the bullying stops, emphasizing that the same rules apply to all children in the school, including their own. The class teacher follows up with a phonecall a month later to check in.
9. The class teacher will fill out an anti-bullying report and give it to the principal. This report, alongside the promise, will be kept in the child's file in the locked cabinet in the

office.

10. Before each BoM meeting, all teaching staff will asked to help compose the oversight report to the BoM by filling in the number of ongoing and resolved bullying incidents in their class.
11. The principal will report all incidents of bullying to the BoM at each BoM meeting.

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):
Daily classroom meetings will take place each morning to check on feelings The Amber Flag

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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.

Frank Martin (Chairperson of BOM)

Mícheál Brennan (Principal Teacher)

Date: 16 / 11 / 16