



*Holy Faith Secondary School
Belgrove Road
Clontarf
Dublin 3*

*Telephone: 01 8331507
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12th November 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Over the coming weeks students will be have anti-bullying lessons during SPHE classes, with a particular focus on homophobic bullying during Stand Up Awareness Week which takes place from November 15-19th.

There will be friendship and resilience workshops for 1st and 2nd year students with Angela McHugh. The schedule for these workshops is as follows:

Tuesday 16th November: 1A p2&3, 1D p4&5

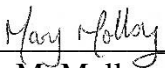
Wednesday 17th November: 1B p2&3, 1C p4&5

Tuesday 23rd November: 2D p2&3, 2C p4&5

Wednesday 24th November: 2B p2&3, 2A p4&5

At the end of the month, an anti-bullying survey will be posted on Teams for students to fill out. We will inform parents when this is being posted and would be grateful if you would discuss it with your daughter before she fills it out. As well as the survey students will be made aware of who they can tell and how to tell about bullying. Please find below a booklet with this information.

Yours sincerely,



Ms M. Molloy,
Deputy Principal

Holy Faith Secondary School Clontarf



Anti-bullying Programme

Parent Information

In our school, we have an anti-bullying policy which is in place to make the school a safe and friendly place for everybody. As part of the policy, we will be exploring the topic of bullying, including homophobic bullying, with students beginning the week of Monday 15th November. The lessons will help students identify bullying behaviour, give students ideas on how they can protect themselves, help other students and support one another as a group.

If you have any suggestions, comments or observations to make, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Outlined below are some of the issues that will be addressed with students. **During the programme an anti-bullying questionnaire will be issued to students which should be completed at home and returned to the school the next day in the envelope provided.**

Bullying is “repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others”. It is very important that we all understand what we mean by bullying.

Bullying is HARD: It can be.....

Hurtful
Aggressive
Repeated
Deliberate

There can be a once off incident of bullying that causes a person to be intimidated on an on-going basis. But usually bullying is repeated. Bullying is also **HARD** to defend yourself from.

Students will be helped to identify the different types of bullying behaviours which are usually listed as physical, verbal, psychological, racial, sexual, cyber, homophobic and relational.

Many students are in a bystander role so learning ways of acting safely in these situations will go a long way towards changing the culture of bullying in school.

Bystanders may have a positive influence and stop bullying behaviour by the following actions:

DO:

- **DO** say “NO” or “STOP” when you see someone behaving unfairly.
- **DO** tell when you know a student is suffering from being bullied (This is not “ratting”. It is telling to be safe)
- **DO** include people who are being left out

DO NOT:

- **DO NOT** join in bullying behaviour by laughing at, sneering or slagging when someone starts doing this.
- **DO NOT** cheer on bullying or a fight
- **DO NOT** stay in a dangerous situation, e.g. a fight. Get help immediately from an adult.
- **DO NOT** bully the bully.

Advice for telling

- The first step is to **TELL AN ADULT**. A friend can give support and understanding but it almost always takes an adult to get it sorted.
- Admitting you are being bullied is never easy
- Telling is not ratting. It is telling to keep someone safe.

Who can I tell:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Parent-who can telephone school | • Guidance Counsellor |
| • Sports Coach | • Year Head |
| • Mentor | • Deputy Principal |
| • Teacher | • Principal |

How can I tell:

- Note with homework
- Note placed in office letterbox (this can be anonymous)
- Note to Year Head
- Use of Microsoft Teams
- Parent can ring school
- Meeting with Year Head or Counsellor
- Anti-bullying Questionnaire

What happens when I tell

- All students are spoken to separately
- The behaviour is challenged as being unacceptable
- A record is kept of all incidents and procedures followed
- There may be further investigation through questionnaire or observation
- Progress of victim/target, bully and others will be monitored
- In the case of a repeat incident the Principal/Deputy Principal and parents are informed.

First Incident

Serious talk with students to point out inappropriate behaviour and the effects of this behaviour.

Verbal warning; students involved warned to stop.

A verbal agreement is sought re future behaviour.

An apology, return of property etc may be appropriate

Parents contacted informally

Repeat Incident

Serious talk with students regarding behaviour and future behaviour

A written agreement is drawn up and signed by students and parents re future behaviour.

All involved may speak separately to the Guidance Counsellor.

Detention

Behaviour report

Loss of privileges

Persistent Bullying

Detention/Suspension

Loss of privileges
Conditions set regarding student's future behaviour during meeting with parents

Counselling offered

Referral to child psychologist/Garda juvenile Liaison Officer

Contact with other support agencies

The future of the student in the school may be considered