

## St. Laurence's N.S: Anti-Bullying Initiative

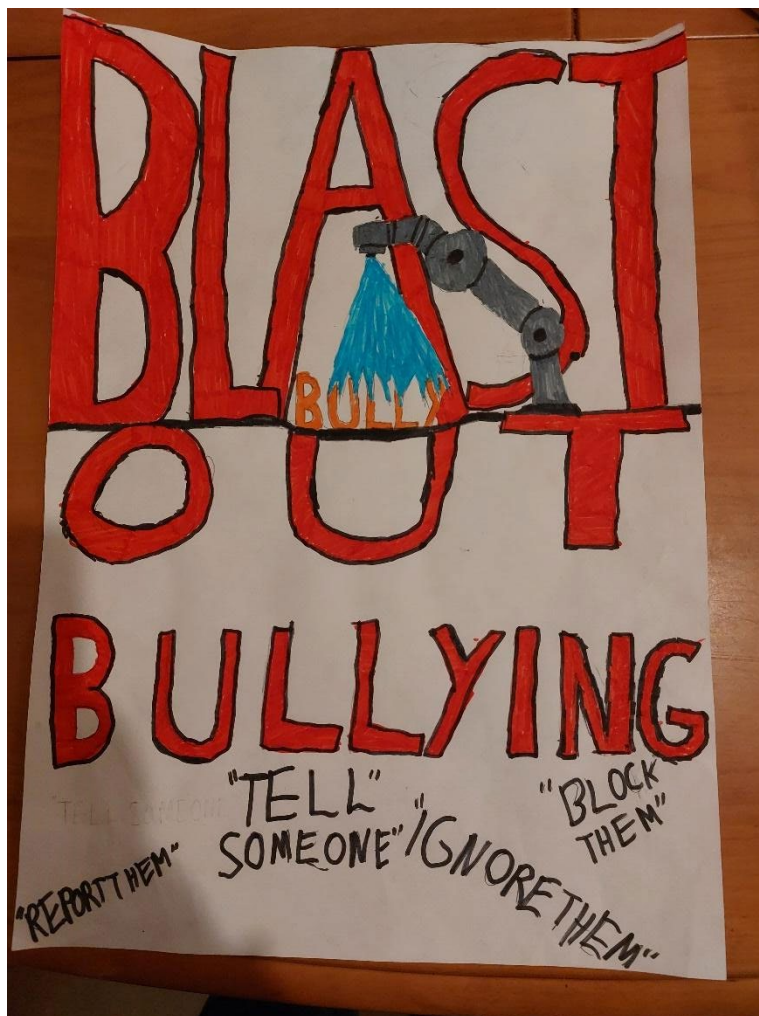
Hi! We are St. Laurence's N.S in Baldoye, Dublin 13. Here is the story of our anti-bullying initiative 2021.

This year we introduced some new initiatives to coincide with anti-bullying month. While all classes would always cover some lessons on bullying and friendship, this year we decided to delve a bit deeper.

Firstly, the Junior and Senior Infant classes engaged in some lovely lessons on friendship and kindness. They used circle time to discuss how to be a good friend and how to show kindness. They also did some basic lessons on bullying and learnt the correct definition of bullying. They coloured a friendship and kindness themed picture as a colouring competition. The winning entries will become part of an anti-bullying/friendship display along the corridors of the school.



1<sup>st</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class took part in an anti-bullying poster competition. Some worked in pairs and some worked individually. We encouraged the pupils to come up with a catchy slogan and the poster could incorporate both bullying and cyber-bullying. They put so much work and effort into their posters and it has been a joy to look at them all. Four posters from each class were chosen as winners and they will be displayed all around the school to keep the anti-bullying message fresh in our minds.





Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Classes also engaged in the FUSE Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class teachers were very positive in their feedback on the programme. The children enjoyed the various lessons and found it extremely relatable, in particular, the sections covering cyber-bullying. There was a home-school link worksheet too which was very useful.

1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes then took part in an anti-bullying survey. For 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes, the survey covered bullying, both at school and outside school. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes had a more in-depth survey which also covered cyber-bullying. The survey had several aims:

- To see if the children properly understand the definition of bullying
- Do our children recognise all types of bullying behaviour?
- Would the children tell someone if they or someone else was being bullied, or would they be too scared?
- Who would the children report a bullying incident to?



- Have any children experienced bullying or have they themselves bullied someone?

**Bullying Survey 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes- October 2021**

**1. What is bullying?**

- ☐ Hurting someone just one time- a one off incident
- ☒ Repeatedly hurting someone

**2. What is cyberbullying? (Tick as many as you like)**

- ☒ Posting mean or harmful content about someone online
- ☒ Sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation
- ☒ Sending threatening text messages
- ☒ Sharing mean or harmful content posted by someone else with others

**3. Where do you think bullying occurs the most?**

- ☐ School Classroom
- ☒ School Yard
- ☐ Outside of school
- ☐ Online
- ☐ Other

**4. If you saw someone being bullied at school would you-**

- ☒ Do nothing
- ☐ Take matters into your own hands
- ☐ Report to a teacher/SNA/Principal
- ☐ Tell your parents/guardians

**5. How many times have you been bullied?**

- ☐ Never
- ☒ Sometimes (Once or Twice)
- ☐ Regularly (Weekly or Monthly)
- ☐ Everyday

**6. Can you tell us how you were bullied?**

- ☐ I haven't been bullied
- ☐ I have been called names
- ☐ I have been physically hurt
- ☒ I have been excluded or ignored
- ☐ I have had my belongings stolen or destroyed
- ☐ I have been sent threat warnings
- ☐ Nasty things have been said to me or about me online
- ☐ Other

7. How many times have you bullied someone else?

- ☒ Never
- ☐ 1 or 2 times a week
- ☐ 1 or 2 times a month
- ☐ Everyday

8. Why do you think some kids are bullies? (You may tick more than one)

- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ They are big and strong
- ☒ They think it's fun
- ☒ They want to get even for being bullied themselves
- ☐ They are 'show-offs'
- ☐ Their friends dare them to bully others
- ☒ They are not happy within themselves

9. Who would you talk to if you were being bullied?

- ☐ I would be too scared to say anything
- ☐ My parents/guardians
- ☒ Another family member
- ☐ A teacher/SNA/Principal
- ☐ My friends
- ☐ Another trusted adult

10. Do you feel safe at school?

- ☒ Always
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

11. What are the best ways to stop bullying in your school? (Please tick as many as you like)

- ☒ Make rules against bullying
- ☒ Talk about bullying during class
- ☐ Hold events such as 'anti-bullying' week and 'Friendship' week
- ☐ Bullying is not a problem in my school

12. What can you do as an individual to prevent bullying from happening, either in school, outside school or online?

talk to a trusted adult or  
stare at the bullie for a very long time.  
works on my mum and sister.



The following results come from a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Class who are engaging in the FUSE programme (43 children approx.).

- 1- All children understand the definition of bullying.
- 2- Two thirds of children recognised all the aspects of cyber-bullying.
- 3- The overall majority of children think most bullying occurs online or outside of school.
- 4- The overall majority would tell a teacher, Principal or SNA if they saw someone bullied in school.
- 5- 50% of children said they have never been bullied.
- 6- The most common forms of bullying experienced were name calling and exclusion.
- 7- Almost all children said they never bullied anyone else.
- 8- Most children think that bullies do it for fun and that they are not happy within themselves.
- 9- The majority of children said they would tell a parent/guardian, teacher, Principal or SNA if they were being bullied. A small number said they would be too scared to tell.
- 10- 50% of children say they always feel safe in school. No child said that they never feel safe.
- 11- All children would love to have regular anti-bullying events, lessons and discussion in class and anti-bullying rules.
- 12- When asked what they could do as individuals to stop bullying happening, most said to tell a trusted adult. Some also mentioned standing up to the bully, being kind and trying to talk to the bully.

Our plan is to use the survey results to plan future lessons, initiatives and events such as Internet Safety Week, Friendship week and future Anti-Bullying Weeks.

The children are looking forward to seeing their posters displayed around the school. Some children mentioned that a visible presence of anti-bullying material gives a sense of security as it is a constant reminder that bullying is not acceptable.

Moving forward, we hope to hold these events yearly and add in some other fun competitions such as an anti-bullying rap competition.

Bullying has such a devastating effect on a person and in St. Laurence's, our goal is to use these initiatives to ensure all of our pupils feel safe, secure and unafraid to tell someone if they are a victim of bullying.