**Rosstulla School**
*"Together Towards Tomorrow"*
**<u>*Anti Bullying Policy</u>**
**(2017/2018)**
**(Agreed by Governing Body, July 2017; to be reviewed June 2018)**

**Context of School**
Rosstulla caters for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties whose ages range from 4 years 6 months to 17 years.

**Purpose of Policy**
To provide clearly defined guidelines easily understood by pupils, parents, staff and governors and in so doing create an environment whereby the individual feels a safe and valued member of the school community.

**Bullying**
The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) defines bullying as:
*"…The repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others.*
*Cyber bullying is bullying through the use of modern technology such as computers and mobile phones.*
*Some examples can include:*
- *Receiving nasty or threatening phone calls, text messages or emails*
- *Nasty or threatening comments, photos or videos posted on chat rooms, instant messenger or social networking".*

*(Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum  2014)*

If an incident of bullying is reported it is taken seriously and is dealt with either by the class/form teacher or another appropriate adult.

An anti-bullying culture is promoted at all times within Rosstulla.

**Procedures**
If an incident of bullying is reported by a pupil or parent/carer:
- Record keeping must be thorough and kept at every stage. In the case of cyber-bullying, every effort will be made to gain concrete evidence of the alleged offence. (Strategies have been put in place to prevent incidents occurring (see Appendix 2).

- Incident to be discussed sensitively with the victim and support to be put in place.

- Vice Principal (Mrs A. Fryers) and Pastoral Care Co-ordinators (Mr P.Ferrin–Secondary; Mrs Cara McCoey–Primary) will be informed and offer support if appropriate.

- The member of staff working with the pupils will use the 'Support Group Method' in order to endeavour to resolve the situation.( Parent/carer informed if appropriate)

- If situation remains unresolved pupil/s referred to Vice Principal for support.
  Parents/Carers of victim and perpetrators will be informed of incident/action taken.

- In a serious case of bullying the matter will be discussed with the Board of Governors. Individual/s may be referred to Social Services as a Child Protection Issue.

If a pupil alleges that another pupil/s is/are bullying them at home, staff should ensure that the bullying does not continue in school and that parents are aware of the situation.

If a member of staff feels that he/she is a victim of bullying they should refer to the guidance in the Code of Conduct for Staff.

## Consultation

This policy has been ratified by Board of Governors in July 2017. The policy is reviewed annually and updated as required.

Avril Fryers (Vice Principal)
*July 2017*

*\* The Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016*

*The new provisions introduced by this Act have not yet been brought into operation.*

*Section 2 of the Act will require that the BoG of the school determine the anti-bullying measures pursued at the school, ensure these are properly implemented and are reviewed at intervals of no more than four years.*

*Section 3 of the Act will place a statutory duty on Boards of Governors of a grant-aided school to ensure that a record is kept of all incidents of bullying behaviours or alleged bullying behaviours involving a registered pupil at the school that occur:*

*(a) on the premises of the school during the school day;*
*(b) while travelling to or from the school during the school term;*

*(c) while the pupil is in the lawful control or charge of a member of the staff of the school; or*

*(d) while the pupil is receiving educational provision arranged on behalf of the school and provided elsewhere than on the premises of the school.*

*The Act can be found at:*

*www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2016/25/pdfs/nia_20160025_en.pdf*

*D.E.N.I. Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools –April 201*

APPENDIX 1

**Cyberbullying**

Cyber bullying is bullying that takes place through electronic technologies, such as:

- Mobile or smart phones – eg. calls, texts, images
- Smart phone apps – eg. Yik Yak, Kik Messenger, Snapchat, Tinder, Vine, WhatsApp, etc.
- Social network websites – eg. Facebook, OoVoo,Twitter, askFM, Instagram, etc.
- Gaming consoles – eg. Xbox Live, Playstation, etc.

Cyber bullying can happen in many different ways.  It can be part of a bullying situation that is going on in the physical world or one that is just happening in the cyber world.  Some examples of cyber bullying include:

- Posting hurtful, embarrassing or threatening material (eg. posts, photos, video) on social network websites
- Sending nasty messages by text or through an app
- Excluding someone from an online game
- Setting up fake profiles on a social network website to make fun of others
- Sharing embarrassing photographs or video of someone to hurt them or their reputation

*(www.naibf.org.uk  2014)*

**Strategies put in place to combat cyberbullying**

- Bullying via mobile phone or the Internet is included in our anti-bullying policy which is updated annually.

- The curriculum teaches pupils about the risks of new communications technologies, the consequences of their misuse, and how to use them safely.

- All e-communications used on the school site or as part of school activities off-site are monitored (by C2KNI).

- Clear policies are set about the use of mobile phones at school and at other times when young people are under the school's authority – (letter sent annually to parents).

- Internet blocking technologies are continually updated and harmful sites blocked (controlled by C2KNI)

- Security systems are in place to prevent images and information about pupils and staff being accessed improperly from outside school e.g. all photographs are shredded after use within school, pupil images are not used in any publication, website, media reports without annual written parental permission.

Useful websites:
www.childline.org.uk

www.niabf.org.uk

www.endbullying.org.uk

www.childnet.com

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.rainbow-project.org

www.barnardos.co.uk

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

www.getsafeonline.org          helpful online advice

www.saferinternet.org.uk