

The 'Blue Shield Flag' award scheme for schools / clubs

In recognition of the strong efforts being made by schools / clubs / communities in counteracting bullying behaviour, the ISPCC has established the 'Shield Flag' Award.

This award scheme has been developed to publicly recognise the efforts of those who are taking a positive proactive approach to bullying.

When a school / club is awarded the 'Shield Flag', they will have a public symbol that their community has made and will continue to make positive steps towards responding to and preventing bullying.

How does a school/club get awarded the Shield Flag?

Schools / clubs can apply to be awarded the 'Shield Flag' through a formal application process on an annual basis. All criteria being measured by the assessors in deciding which schools qualify for a 'Shield Flag' are detailed below.

Schools / clubs will be assessed on whether they have attained all six criteria for achieving 'Shield Flag' status. When applying for the 'Shield Flag', the assessors will seek evidence that all of these criteria have been met:

1. The school/club has completed the ISPCC's "Shield My School" Anti-bullying toolkit. (either self-facilitated or facilitated with an ISPCC staff member).
2. There has been full completion of an action plan with provision of proof of any activities undertaken as a result of the self-assessment process.
3. The school/club has appointed a lead person / co-ordinator who will have overall responsibility within that community for all anti-bullying measures, promotion and activities.
4. A bullying awareness week/Positive behaviour week is held at least annually and incorporates educational components.
5. Installation of the 'Stand Up' Bullying Reporting Tool on the school's / club's website / Facebook page has occurred and this facility has been promoted to the community.
6. The school / club has an up-to-date Anti-Bullying Policy in line with Department of Education guidelines, which highlighting how reports of bullying will be handled in their environment.

All schools/clubs awarded the 'Shield Flag' will receive a flag for display at their premises as well as a Shield Flag certificate to display on any social media.

Once all these criteria have been fulfilled, schools can download the blue shield flag application form on the ISPCC website. Please email the completed form to Andrew Jackson at andrew.jackson@ispcc.ie.