



Shield Statement 9.

Reporting Procedures – Children, Young People and personnel can report bullying concerns, they feel listened to and supported. We help build confidence to come forward no matter how small or big the perceived issue.

Ideas to Inspire:

When it comes to bullying, it is very important that we respond to the situation by reporting it. There are almost always differences and variations in each individual case but with bullying an informal procedure is preferable initially. Escalating a report to the school principal/organisation's management or designated person, is advised. The policy on bullying should clearly set out what will happen when a report is made, how the report will be investigated and who will carry out the investigation, considering issues of confidentiality and the rights of both parties.

Some studies highlighted young people's reluctance to report cyberbullying to adults for fear that their access to ICT (Information Communication Technologies) would be removed. The restriction of access was perceived as a punishment, even if undertaken as a supportive action, as it meant the "loss of their connection with their social world" (Dennehy, 2020).



Childline
by ISPCC

Similarly, children and young people fear reporting bullying for fear they will get in to trouble.

To encourage children and young people to report bullying, does your organisation have a way for this to happen in a confidential manner? For example, an email address or telephone number children and young people can use to report bullying or a particular time in the week where office hours are made available to children and young people to come and talk to the anti-bullying coordinator in your organisation?

Are your methods for reporting advertised and highlighted on an ongoing basis to children and young people?

Does your organisation have a protocol/signposting for other agencies that may be needed in certain incidences that could be reported? For instance, in accordance with Children First and Child Protection for Primary and Post-Primary Schools, serious instances of bullying should be referred to the Child and Family Agency, TUSLA www.tusla.ie/children-first/report-a-concern/ The Agency operates under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013, a progressive piece of legislation with children at its heart and families viewed as the foundation of a strong healthy community where children can flourish. Partnership and co-operation in the delivery of seamless services to children and families are also central to the Act.

They can also be referred to HSE Children and Family Services www2.hse.ie/coping-with-difficult-situations/bullying-and-harassment

Or An Garda Síochána at 999 or 112. In less urgent situations, you should contact your local Garda station