|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | St. Mary’s Primary School, 67 Downpatrick Street,Rathfriland,Co. Down,BT34 5DQTel: 028 406 30630 www.stmarysrathfriland.co.uk |

26th May 2022

Dear Parents,

This is a follow up letter to our online questionnaire on the Anti – Bullying Culture within our School. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the questionnaire, your responses will help to shape our updated Anti- Bullying Policy as well as giving us a clear insight into how you as Parents view the Anti- Bullying environment that we strive to maintain within our school.

The results from the Questionnaire were very positive with Parents having agreement that the school is committed to creating an environment of care and trust for all pupils, it is a safe place for the children, where high standards of behaviour are evident.

Children know what to do in the event of a bullying incident and the good relationships that exist between teachers and pupils was highlighted. This shows the strength of our Preventative Curriculum within the School and the importance of solid relationships between all in our School Community.

We as a staff will continue to further develop our PDMU and Preventative Curriculum in light of the impact of the pandemic and the needs of the children in our care. We will further ensure that children continue to get the opportunities to learn and manage their different feelings in age appropriate ways.

In the time leading into the consultation the P1-3 children participated in 3 workshops from Action Mental Health through the Little Healthy Minds Project. The use of funding to provide therapeutic and counselling services to some of our children is also another way that we have sought to continue to provide for the needs of our children. In the year 2021/2022 the children in P6 and 7 have accessed workshops from Action Mental Health which proved to be very successful and of great benefit to the children. This is part of a 2-year programme giving our P4/5 children the opportunity to avail of this in the 2022/2023 year. This, alongside our PDMU lessons and Preventative Curriculum is further strengthening our children’s understanding of feelings, self-awareness and resilience.

Further information on how to report worries or concerns about bullying will be posted on the school website, as well as links to the Northern Ireland Anti Bullying forum, where information is available for Parents in the Parent/Carer Toolkit.

Included in the information is a Parents and Carers Information Leaflet on the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act and Information for Children on the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act. We would ask that you take time to become familiar with this and also to share the information with your children.

Once again thank you to all who took the time to complete the Questionnaire and many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Jane Fitzpatrick