



Mallow

Community National School

Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark, Mallow, Co. Cork

Email: MallowCNS@corketb.ie Tel: 022-55314 Website: www.scoilaonghusacns.ie

Behaviours of Concern Policy

What are Behaviours of Concern?

Behaviours of concern can be defined as “behaviours that indicate a risk to the safety or wellbeing of the people who exhibit them or to others”.

What is a crisis situation?

A crisis situation can occur when behaviours of concern present serious risk of imminent physical harm to the student concerned and/or others within the school environment.

Our Rationale

Sometimes students may have such highly complex and challenging behaviour, social or education needs that they need extra help and support. This policy aims to support the student exhibiting Behaviours of Concern, other students, staff, and the relevant parents. This policy is complimentary to the school Child Safeguarding Statement, Code of Behaviour, and Health & Safety Statement.

Code of Behaviour

Our school Code of Behaviour aims to positively support students in the first instance but reserves the right to impose sanctions particularly when the health and safety of students and staff are a concern.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Our school Child Safeguarding Statement places a statutory responsibility on registered teachers to report child protection concerns that are at or above a threshold of harm. An accompanying Risk Assessment identifies possible situations where students may be at risk and the control measures that our school puts in place to address such concerns.

Health & Safety Statement

Our school Health & Safety Statement underpins the entitlement of all students and staff to coexist in a safe environment.



Mallow

Community National School

Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark, Mallow, Co. Cork

Email: MallowCNS@corketb.ie

Tel: 022-55314

Website: www.scoilaonghusacns.ie

CPI Training

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training - Oct 2024 & Nov 2025 - staff in both Autism Classes

A number of staff members assigned to the school's Autism classes have completed Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training. CPI training supports staff in understanding the underlying causes of behaviours of concern and in using preventative, de-escalation and crisis-management strategies that prioritise dignity, safety and the best interests of the child.

In line with Department of Education and NCSE guidance, where a crisis situation arises and physical intervention is deemed necessary, the school will endeavour to involve appropriately trained staff. All staff, regardless of training, are expected to act in accordance with the principles of care, proportionality and child-centred practice.

We currently have one staff member (Amanda Greene) trained as a Crisis Prevention Instructor and have six members of staff who hold up to date CPI Blue Cards (Orla O'Hanlon, Kay O'Hanlon, Hayley Browne, Eilish O'Shea, Juliette Guiney, Sinead Coleman)

Other Training

Mason Hayes and Curran Behaviours of Concern training - Mar 2023 - all staff

Sensory Regulation with Michelle Dilworth, Occupational Therapist - Feb 2023 - all staff

Manual Handling Training - Feb 2023 - SNAs

NCSE Behaviour Advisory Visits - ongoing

Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint

The school is committed to the promotion of positive behaviour and the use of preventative and de-escalation strategies in the first instance. Physical intervention will only be considered in a **crisis situation**, defined as circumstances where there is a serious risk of imminent physical harm to the student concerned or to others.

Any physical intervention used:L

- Will be a **last resort**
- Will be **reasonable, proportionate and necessary** in response to the level of risk
- Will be used for the **shortest duration possible**
- Will be carried out in the **best interests of the child**

Where possible, physical intervention or restraint will be carried out by staff who have received CPI training. The school recognises, however, that in emergency situations the immediate safety of the child and others may require staff to act without delay.



Mallow

Community National School

Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark, Mallow, Co. Cork

Email: MallowCNS@corketb.ie Tel: 022-55314 Website: www.scoilaonghusacns.ie

All incidents involving physical intervention or restraint will be:

- Recorded in accordance with school procedures
- Reported to the Principal
- Communicated to parents/guardians
- Reviewed to inform future planning and risk reduction

How we react to a Behaviour of Concern Incident?

- Make sure everyone is safe
- Prevent the situation deteriorating further
- Put an immediate plan in place that will link to an effective and sustained behaviour plan

Support Services

Here is a list of State Agencies (not exhaustive) that we consult for advice, assistance and additional supports.

- Túsla
- CAMHS: Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Department of Education
- Education Welfare Officer: (Attached to EWS)
- Education Welfare Service (Now part of Túsla)
- Gardaí
- NCSE National Council for Special Education
- National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
- Special Schools National Behaviour Support Service (SESS now part of NCSE) • Special Education Needs Organiser (member of NCSE staff)

We may also contact our relevant Management Body and or Principal's Association for advice and guidance.

Possible Underlying Causes of behaviours of Concern

There is always a reason for, or purpose to behaviours of concern, such as:

- **Anxiety and Stress:** Students may become anxious for a myriad of reasons. Worries about friendships, home situations etc. can be overwhelming for a student, leading to stress. While most children are able to identify the cause and put in place strategies to reduce their stress levels, some cannot.
- **Communication difficulties:** These can range from not being able to speak at all, shyness,



Mallow

Community National School

Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark, Mallow, Co. Cork

Email: MallowCNS@corketb.ie Tel: 022-55314 Website: www.scoilaoighusaacns.ie

social inhibition to being very articulate but not understanding the social variations and conventions in a conversation. Behaviours of Concern are often a substitute means of communication for such students.

- **Sensory issues:** Some students can be over- or under-sensitive to any of their senses. This is often referred to in the literature as hyper (over) or hypo (under) sensitivity.
- **Social understanding:** Not all students have the same understanding of social rules. Not all students grow up in environments with social rules like those in most schools
- **Inflexible thinking:** We all adapt to routines and can find them comforting. Some students struggle with changes in routine.

Recording of Behaviours of Concern

Where behaviours of concern are an issue, we ensure that the parents are aware of the school's policy and procedures on recording such behaviours. Parents should understand that the school seeks to record and analyse these behaviours to understand what the triggers are and to put in place a plan to support the student to develop more socially acceptable behaviours. Parents should be assured that they will be fully included in this process. It is important to emphasise that students who exhibit behaviours of concern make life difficult for themselves and inhibit social interaction with their class peers.

See Appendix A

Examples of Behaviours of Concern (not exhaustive):

- Student with a weapon and intent on using violence
- Physically attacking another or about to
- Throwing furniture or breaking glass close to others
- Putting themselves in danger, running onto a road or trying to self-harm

When will our school use restraint?

We will only use restraint when there is a crisis.

A physical intervention: is the use of a physical act or restraint to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of a student's body.

Examples of physical intervention:

- (1) Presence
Standing in front of a student
- (2) Touching
Lead, guide, usher, block-door handle



Mallow Community National School

Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark, Mallow, Co. Cork

Email: MallowCNS@corketb.ie Tel: 022-55314 Website: www.scoilaonghusacns.ie

Student retains a lot of mobility

(3) Holding

Student's hand held by one adult but retains a level of mobility

(4) Restraint

Completely restrict mobility -2 adults holding legs & arms
(Am I using minimum force for the shortest time?)

Restraint:

- (1) Cannot be used in schools except in the case of a **crisis** where there is a **serious risk of imminent physical harm** to the pupils concerned/others
- (2) Should not be the first option and if used should be timely, measured, and proportionate
- (3) It should be carried out by appropriately trained persons if possible
- (4) If used should be documented, reported to the board of management and the NCSE

Principal	<i>Fine O Connol</i>
Chairperson	<i>Lia Aher</i>

Date ratified by the Board of Management:	<i>24/2/26</i>
---	----------------



Mallow

Community National School

Kingsfort Avenue, Castlepark, Mallow, Co. Cork

Email: MallowCNS@corketb.ie

Tel: 022-55314

Website: www.scoilaonghusacns.ie

Did you need to use restrictive practice or physical intervention?	
How was this in the best interests of the child?	
How can we reduce the risks in the future?	
Was medical intervention needed or sought?	
How many staff were needed to manage this incident safely? (Please name)	
Were the parents notified?	
Please sign:	
Date:	
Have you notified the principal?	

