Castleplunkett N.S.



Castleplunkett NS

Anti-Bullying Policy

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and the code of behaviour guidelines issued by the NEWB, the Board of Management of **Castleplunkett National School** has adopted the following anti-bullying policy within the framework of the school's overall code of behaviour. This policy fully complies with the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools which were published in **September 2013.**

THIS POLICY MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCHOOLS OVERALL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR AND EXISTING ANTI BULLYING MEASURES AND PROCEDURES.

2. The Board of Management recognises the very serious nature of bullying and the negative impact that it can have on the lives of pupils and is therefore fully committed to the following **key principles of best practice** in preventing and tackling bullying behaviour:

(a) A positive school culture and climate which

- is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity;
- encourages pupils to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a nonthreatening environment; and
- promotes respectful relationships across the school community;

In Castleplunkett NS we consider the following to be key elements of a Positive School Culture:

- > We acknowledge the right of each member of the school community to enjoy school in a secure environment.
- > We acknowledge the uniqueness of each individual and their worth as a human being.

- > We promote positive habits of self- respect, self-discipline and responsibility among all its members.
- > We actively prohibit vulgar, offensive, sectarian or other aggressive behaviour by any of its members.
- > We have a clear commitment to promoting equity in general and gender equity in particular in all aspects of its functioning.
- > We have the capacity to change in response to its pupils needs.
- > We identify aspects of its curriculum through which positive and sustainable influences can be exerted towards forming pupils' attitudes and values.
- > We take particular care of 'at risk' pupils and uses its systems to identify needs and facilitate early intervention where necessary -thus responding to the needs, fears & anxieties of individual members in a sensitive manner.
- > Castleplunkett NS recognises the need to work in partnership with and keep parents informed on procedures to improve relationships within the school community.
- > We recognise the right of parents to share in the task of equipping pupils with a range of life skills.
- > We recognise the role of other community agencies in preventing and dealing with bullying.
- > We promote habits of mutual respect, courtesy and an awareness of the interdependence of people in groups and communities.
- > We promote qualities of social responsibility, tolerance and understanding among its members both in school and outside of school.
- > Staff members share a collegiate responsibility, under the direction of the Principal, to act in preventing bullying/aggressive behaviour by ANY MEMBER of the school community.

(b) Effective leadership

- The BOM has overall responsibility to ensure that this policy is effective, sustainable and measured. The BOM must ensure that accountability is of the highest standard and frequently appraise the outcomes of the strategies and measures contained within the policy.
- > The Principal of Castleplunkett NS as key leader strongly influences attitudes and sets standards in relation to dealing with bullying.

> Teachers must act as good role models and not misuse authority, but be fair, clear and consistent in their disciplinary measures.

(c) A school-wide approach

- > A whole community approach to the problem of bullying is required and Castleplunkett School community comprises of management, teachers, non-teaching staff, pupils, parents/quardians.
- > Beyond the school community, bullying behaviour may extend to outside of school. Where this negatively impacts on a school parents and pupils have a responsibility to support the school in helping to address the issue. This applies particularly (but not exclusively) to cyber bullying.
- > The assistance of Gardaí, Tusla and Community Workers may be required in some cases.
- > Collective vigilance is needed throughout the whole school/community sector to identify and deal with issues around bullying in a fair and equitable manner.

(d) A shared understanding of what bullying is and its impact

Castleplunkett NS endeavours to put in place appropriate systems to ensure that ALL relevant members of the school community (parents, pupils, staff and the wider community) have a shared understanding of what constitutes bullying behaviour as defined in this policy (Section 2&3 of Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools).

(e) Implementation of education and prevention strategies <u>see section 5 of this policy</u>, (including awareness raising measures) that-

- build empathy, respect and resilience in pupils; and
- explicitly address the issues of cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying including in particular, homophobic and transphobic bullying;
- effective supervision and monitoring of pupils;

(f) Effective supervision and monitoring of pupils

- > Staff members have a distinct responsibility to ensure that supervision of pupils in class is effective and consistent.
- > Supervision in playground areas must be managed and conducted effectively, with particular attention given to 'hot spots' or 'hot times' eg arrival & dismissal.

(g) Supports for staff

- > Regular discussion and review of policy and procedures is essential to support staff on a continuous basis.
- > All staff must have a uniform interpretation of what is expected in relation to bullying, how to identify possible bullying behaviours, how to manage disclosures and how to deal effectively with incidents of bullying within the classroom context.
- > Staff must be aware that supporting one another is a key aspect of prevention and new/inexperienced members of staff must be given every opportunity to discuss concerns and model best practice.
- > CPD in relation to Anti Bullying Strategies will be supported and encouraged for all members of staff.
- (h) Consistent recording, investigation and follow up of bullying behaviour (including use of established intervention strategies); and
- (i) On-going evaluation of the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy.
- **3.** In accordance with the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* bullying is defined as follows:

Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted, by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is <u>repeated</u> over time.

The following types of bullying behaviour are included in the definition of bullying:

- Deliberate exclusion, malicious gossip and other forms of relational bullying,
- Cyber-bullying and
- Identity-based bullying such as homophobic bullying, racist bullying, bullying based on a person's membership of the Traveller community and bullying of those with disabilities or special educational needs.

Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and should be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

However, in the context of this policy, placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.

Negative behaviour that does not meet this definition of bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.

- **4**. The relevant teachers for investigating and dealing with bullying in accordance with the Anti -Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools section 6:7.6, 6:7.7 are as follows:
 - > Principal
 - > Deputy Principal
 - > All class teachers
 - > Special Education Teacher

5. Education and prevention strategies:

The following education and prevention strategies (including strategies specifically aimed at cyber-bullying, homophobic and transphobic bullying) will be used by Castleplunkett NS (Ref: Section 6.5 of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*):

School-wide approach

- A school-wide approach to the fostering of respect for all members of the school community.
- The promotion of the value of diversity to address issues of prejudice and stereotyping, and highlight the unacceptability of bullying behaviour.
- The fostering and enhancing of the self-esteem of all our pupils through both curricular and extracurricular activities. Pupils will be provided with opportunities to develop a positive sense of self-worth through formal and informal interactions.
- Whole staff professional development on bullying to ensure that all staff develops an awareness of what bullying is, how it impacts on pupils' lives and the need to respond to it-prevention and intervention.
- An annual audit of professional development needs with a view to assessing staff requirements through internal staff knowledge/expertise and external sources
- Professional development with specific focus on the training of the relevant teachers
- School wide awareness raising and training on all aspects of bullying, to include

- pupils, parents/quardians and the wider school community.
- Supervision and monitoring of classrooms, corridors, school grounds, school tours and extra- curricular activities. Non-teaching and ancillary staff will be encouraged to be vigilant and report issues to relevant teachers. Supervision will also apply to monitoring student use of communication technology within the school.
- Development and promotion of an Anti-Bullying code for the school-to be displayed publicly in classrooms and in common areas of the school.
- The school's anti-bullying policy is discussed with pupils and all parents/guardians are given a copy as part of the Code of Behaviour of the school on enrolment.
- The implementation of whole school awareness measures e.g. a dedicated notice board in the school and classrooms on the promotion of friendship, kindness, bullying prevention, friendship day etc as deemed appropriate and necessary by school staff.
- Encourage a culture of telling, with particular emphasis on the importance of bystanders. In that way pupils will gain confidence in 'telling'. This confidence factor is of vital importance. It should be made clear to all pupils that when they report incidents of bullying they are not considered to be telling tales but are behaving responsibly.
- Ensuring that pupils know who to tell and how to tell, e.g.:
 - Direct approach to teacher at an appropriate time, for example after class.
 - Hand note up with homework.
 - Make a phone call to the school
 - Worry box
 - o Get a parent/guardian or friend to tell on your behalf.
 - Ensure bystanders understand the importance of telling if they witness or know that bullying is taking place.
- Identify clear protocols to encourage parents/guardians to approach the school if they suspect that their child is being bullied. The protocol should be developed in consultation with parents.
- The development of an Acceptable Use Policy in the school to include the necessary steps to ensure that the access to technology within the school is strictly monitored, as is the pupils' use of mobile phones.
- The listing of supports currently being used in the school and the identification of other supports available to the school.

Implementation of curricula

- There are a number of curriculum components and programmes with are relevant to the prevention of bullying and the promotion of respect for diversity and inclusion.
- The full implementation of the SPHE and the RSE and Stay Safe Programmes, which are personal safety skills programmes which seek to enhance children's self-protection skills including their ability to recognise and cope with bullying.
- When necessary and based on teachers' professional judgement, lessons from other programmes including UP2US, Webwise and Be Safe may be used to further complement curriculum programmes.
- The school will specifically consider the additional needs of SEN pupils with regard to programme implementation and the development of skills and strategies to enable all pupils to respond appropriately.

Links to other policies

This is a List of school policies, practices and activities that are particularly relevant to bullying:

- Code of Behaviour
- Child Protection Policy
- Acceptable Use policy
- SPHE
- RSE
- Attendance
- School Tours Policy
- SEN Policy

7. The school's programme of support for working with pupils affected by bullying is as follows (Ref 6:8:16 of Procedures):

- All in-school supports and opportunities will be provided for the pupils affected by bullying to participate in activities designed to raise their self-esteem, to develop friendships and social skills and build resilience e.g.
 - SPHE Lessons
 - Stay Safe Programme
 - Walk Tall
 - NEPS programmes on www.neps.ie
- The school's programme of support for working with pupils affected by bullying involves a whole school approach and participation in curricular work to develop self-esteem, friendships, social skills and build resilience, through SPHE lessons, Stay Safe, RSE and Walk Tall.
- Given the complexity of bullying behaviour, no one intervention/support programme
 works in all situations. Therefore, various approaches and intervention strategies,
 may be used. It may also be suggested, where appropriate, that parents seek
 referrals to appropriate outside agencies in order to receive further support for
 pupils and their families, if needed.

8. Supervision and Monitoring of Pupils

The Board of Management confirms that appropriate supervision and monitoring policies and Practices are in place to both prevent and deal with bullying behaviour and to facilitate early intervention where possible.

- There are agreed supervision and monitoring practices in the school.
- Mobile phones are not permitted in school, but if brought to school with written permission of a parent they must be surrendered to teacher/principal during the school day 09.10 a.m. to 14:50 p.m.
- Mobile phones are generally not permitted on school tours/outings except in special circumstance, and written permission.
- In relation to Acceptable Use Policy in the school the following issues are addressed:
 - o All Internet sessions are supervised by a teacher
 - The school regularly monitor pupils' Internet usage within school time.
 - Pupils been instructed to access only those discussion forums and messaging or other electronic communication for athat have been approved by the school.

(Note that the Schools Broadband Programme has blocked all social networking sites on the basis that they waste time and take up too much of the bandwidth which is been provided for educational purposes only.)

9. Prevention of Harassment

The Board of Management confirms that the school will, in accordance with its obligations under equality legislation, take all such steps that are reasonably practicable to prevent the sexual harassment of pupils or staff or the harassment of pupils or staff on any of the nine grounds specified i.e. gender including transgender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Traveller community.

- 10. This reviewed Anti-Bullying policy was adopted by the Board of Management 13th of December 2023.
- 11. This policy has been made available to school personnel, and is readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the Parents' Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.
- 12. This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management annually or when any changes arise. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and be readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the Parents' Association. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Signed: <u>Scale Fitzmance</u> (Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: <u>Kathrina Grogae</u> (Principal)

Date: 13th Dec 2023 Date: 13th Dec 2023

Appendix 1: Bullying Behaviours

	Buttying Benaviours
General behaviours which apply to all types of bullying	 Harassment based on any of the nine grounds in the equality legislation e.g. sexual harassment, homophobic bullying, racist bullying etc. Physical aggression Damage to property Name calling Slagging The production, display or circulation of written words, pictures or other materials aimed at intimidating another person Offensive graffiti Extortion Intimidation Insulting or offensive gestures The "look" Invasion of personal space A combination of any of the types listed.
Cyber	 Denigration: Spreading rumors, lies or gossip to hurt a person's reputation Harassment: Continually sending vicious, mean or disturbing messages to an individual Impersonation: Posting offensive or aggressive messages under another person's name Flaming: Using inflammatory or vulgar words to provoke an online fight Trickery: Fooling someone into sharing personal information which you then post online Outing: Posting or sharing confidential or compromising information or images Exclusion: Purposefully excluding someone from an online group Cyber stalking: Ongoing harassment and denigration that causes a person considerable fear for his/her safety Silent telephone/mobile phone call Abusive text messages Abusive text messages Abusive communication on social networks e.g. Facebook/Ask.fm/Twitter/You Tube or on games consoles Abusive website comments/Blogs/Pictures
Identity Based Behaviours Including any of the nine transgender, civil status, far the Traveller community).	•Abusive website comments, blogs, retures •Abusive posts on any form of communication technology discriminatory grounds mentioned in Equality Legislation (gender including mily status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of
Homophobic and Transgender	 Spreading rumours about a person's sexual orientation Taunting a person of a different sexual orientation Name calling e.g. Gay, queer, lesbianused in a derogatory manner Physical intimidation or attacks

	•Threats			
Race, nationality, ethnic background and membership of the Traveller community	Discrimination, prejudice, comments or insults about colour, nationality, culture, social class, religious beliefs, ethnic or traveller background Exclusion on the basis of any of the above			
Relational	This involves manipulating relationships as a means of bullying. Behaviours include: •Malicious gossip •Isolation & exclusion •Ignoring •Excluding from the group •Taking someone's friends away •"Bitching" •Spreading rumours •Breaking confidence •Talking loud enough so that the victim can hear •The "look"			
Sexual	Use or terminology such as 'nerd' in a derogatory way Unwelcome or inappropriate sexual comments or touching Harassment			
Special Educational Needs, Disability	 Name calling Taunting others because of their disability or learning needs Taking advantage of some pupils' vulnerabilities and limited capacity to recognise and defend themselves against bullying Taking advantage of some pupils' vulnerabilities and limited capacity to understand social situations and social cues. Mimicking a person's disability Setting others up for ridicule 			

Appendix 2:

Procedures for Investigating and Dealing with Bullying

The primary aim in investigating and dealing with bullying is to resolve any issues and to restore, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved (rather than to apportion blame);

The school's procedures must be consistent with the following approach.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all involved (including pupils, parents/guardians) understand this approach from the outset.

Reporting bullying behaviour

- Any pupil or parent(s)/guardian(s) may bring a bullying incident to any teacher in the school.
- In investigating and dealing with bullying, the relevant teacher will exercise her professional judgement to determine whether bullying has occurred and how best the situation might be resolved.
- All reports, including anonymous reports of bullying, will be investigated and dealt with by the relevant teacher.
- Teaching and non-teaching staff such as secretaries, special needs assistants (SNAs), bus escorts, caretakers, cleaners must report any incidents of bullying behaviour witnessed by them, or mentioned to them, to the relevant teacher.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupils are required to co-operate with any investigation and assist the school in resolving any issues and restoring, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved as quickly as possible.
- Teachers should take a calm, unemotional problem-solving approach.
- Where possible incidents should be investigated outside the classroom situation to ensure the privacy of all involved.
- All interviews should be conducted with sensitivity and with due regard to the rights of all pupils concerned. Pupils who are not directly involved can also provide very useful information in this way.
- When analysing incidents of bullying behaviour, the relevant teacher should seek answers to questions of what, where, when, who and why. This should be done in a calm manner, setting an example in dealing effectively with a conflict in a non-aggressive manner.
- If a group is involved, each member should be interviewed individually at first. Thereafter, all those involved should be met as a group. At the group meeting, each member should be asked for his/her account of what happened to ensure that everyone in the group is clear about each other's statements.
- Each member of a group should be supported through the possible pressures that may face them from the other members of the group after the interview by the teacher.
- It may also be appropriate or helpful to ask those involved to write down their account of the incident(s).

- In cases where it has been determined by the relevant teacher that bullying behaviour has occurred, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the parties involved should be contacted at an early stage to inform them of the matter and explain the actions being taken (by reference to the school policy). The school should give parent(s)/guardian(s) an opportunity of discussing ways in which they can reinforce or support the actions being taken by the school and the supports provided to the pupils.
- Where the relevant teacher has determined that a pupil has been engaged in bullying behaviour, it should be made clear to her how she is in breach of the school's antibullying policy and efforts should be made to try to get her to see the situation from the perspective of the pupil being bullied.
- It must also be made clear to all involved (each set of pupils and parent(s)/guardian(s)) that in any situation where disciplinary sanctions are required, this is a private matter between the pupil being disciplined, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school.

Follow up and recording

- In determining whether a bullying case has been adequately and appropriately addressed the relevant teacher must, as part of her professional judgement, take the following factors into account:
 - Whether the bullying behaviour has ceased.
 - Whether any issues between the parties have been resolved as far as is practicable.
 - Whether the relationships between the parties have been restored as far as is practicable.
 - Any feedback received from the parties involved, their parent(s)/guardian(s)s or the school Principal or Deputy Principal.
- Follow-up meetings with the relevant parties involved should be arranged separately with a view to possibly bringing them together at a later date if the pupil who has been bullied is ready and agreeable.
- Where a parent(s)/guardian(s) is not satisfied that the school has dealt with a bullying case in accordance with these procedures, the parent(s)/guardian(s) must be referred, as appropriate, to the school's complaints procedures.
- In the event that a parent(s)/guardian(s) has exhausted the school's complaints procedures and is still not satisfied, the school must advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman for Children.

Recording of bullying behaviour

It is imperative that all recording of bullying incidents must be done in an objective and factual manner.

The school's procedures for noting and reporting bullying behaviour are as follows:

Informal- pre-determination that bullying has occurred

- All staff must keep a written record of any incidents witnessed by them or notified to them. Consideration needs to be given to where the records will be made e.g. incident book. All incidents must be reported to the relevant teacher.
- While all reports, including anonymous reports of bullying must be investigated and dealt with by the relevant teacher, the relevant teacher must keep a written record of the reports, the actions taken and any discussions with those involved regarding same.
- The relevant teacher must inform the principal of all incidents being investigated.

Formal Stage 1-determination that bullying has occurred

- If it is established by the relevant teacher that bullying has occurred, the relevant teacher must keep appropriate written records which will assist her efforts to resolve the issues and restore, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved.
- The school in consultation with the relevant teacher/s should develop a protocol for the storage of all records retained by the relevant teacher.

Formal Stage 2-Appendix 3 (From DES Procedures)

The relevant teacher must use the recording template attached to record the bullying behaviour in the following circumstances:

- a) in cases where she considers that the bullying behaviour has not been adequately and appropriately addressed within 20 school days after she has determined that bullying behaviour occurred; and
- b) All confirmed instances of bullying behaviour must be recorded and reported immediately to the Principal or Deputy Principal as applicable.

The recording template must be retained by the relevant teacher in question and a copy maintained by the principal.

Teachers' records are retained in a secure space in the teacher's classroom. All report templates given to the Principal will be retained in the filing cabinet in the Principal's Office.

Established intervention strategies

- Teacher interviews with all pupils
- Negotiating agreements between pupils and following these up by monitoring progress.
 This can be on an informal basis or implemented through a more structured mediation process
- Working with parent/quardian to support school interventions
- No Blame Approach
- Circle Time



Appendix 3:

Template for recording bullying behaviour

I. Name of pupil being bullied a Nam e					
2. Name(s) and class(es) of pupil(s) engaged in bullying behaviour					
-					
P					
3. Source of bullying					
concern/report (tick relevant	4. Location of incidents (tick				
box(es))*	relevant box(es))*				
Pupil concerned	Playground				
Other Pupil	Classroom				
outon rupti					
Parent	Corridor				
Teacher	Toilets				
Other	School Bus				
	Other				
	Other				
. Name of person(s) who report	ed the bullying concern				
. Type of Bullying Behaviour (t	ick relevant box(es)) *				
hysical Aggression	Cyber-bullying				
Damage to Property	Intimidation				
solation/Exclusion	Malicious Gossip				
ame Calling	Other (specify)				
une culling	Stites (speedig)				

Homophobic	Disability/SEN related	Racist	Membership of Traveller community	Other (specify)
. Brief Descr	iption of bullying	behaviour	and its impact	
. Detail	s of actions taken	ı		
. Detail	s of actions taken	ı		
). Detail	s of actions taken			

• Note: The categories listed in the tables 3, 4 & 6 are suggested and schools may add to or amend these to suit their own circumstances.



Appendix 4:

Checklist for annual review of the anti-bullying policy and its implementation

The Board of Management (the Board) must undertake an annual review of the school's anti-bullying policy and its implementation. The following checklist must be used for this purpose. The checklist is an aid to conducting this review and is not intended as an exhaustive list. In order to complete the checklist, an examination and review involving both quantitative and qualitative analysis, as appropriate across the various elements of the implementation of the school's anti-bullying policy will be required.

Yes /No

Has the Board formally adopted an anti-bullying policy that fully complies with the requirements of the <i>Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools</i> ?	
Has the Board published the policy on the school website and provided a copy to the parents' association?	
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been made available to school staff (including new staff)?	
Is the Board satisfied that school staff are sufficiently familiar with the policy and procedures to enable them to effectively and consistently apply the policy and procedures in their day to day work?	
Has the Board ensured that the policy has been adequately communicated to all pupils?	
Has the policy documented the prevention and education strategies that the school applies?	
Have all of the prevention and education strategies been implemented?	
Has the effectiveness of the prevention and education strategies that have been implemented been examined?	
Is the Board satisfied that all teachers are recording and dealing with incidents in accordance with the policy?	

Has the Board received and minuted the periodic summary reports of the Principal?	
Has the Board discussed how well the school is handling all reports of bullying including those addressed at an early stage and not therefore included in the Principal's periodic report to the Board?	
Has the Board received any complaints from parents regarding the school's handling of bullying incidents?	
Have any parents withdrawn their child from the school citing dissatisfaction with the school's handling of a bullying situation?	
Have any Ombudsman for Children investigations into the school's handling of a bullying case been initiated or completed?	
Has the data available from cases reported to the Principal (by the bullying recording template) been analysed to identify any issues, trends or patterns in bullying behaviour?	
Has the Board identified any aspects of the school's policy and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	
Has the Board put in place an action plan to address any areas for improvement?	
Signed Date	
Chairperson, Board of Management	
Signed Date	
Principal	

Appendix 5:



Castleplunkett NS

Castleplunkett,

Castlerea,

Co. Roscommon.

F45YA40

Ph: 094 9651260

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RE: Notification regarding the Board of Management's review of the Anti-Bullying Policy

The Board of Management of Castleplunkett NS wishes to inform you that:

The Board of Management's annual review completed at the Board meeting of	
 This review was conducted in accordance Appendix 4 of the Department's Anti-B. Primary Schools. 	with the "Checklist for Review set out in fullying Procedures for Primary and Post-
Signed	Date
Chairperson, Board of Management	
Signed	Date
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management	