

The Role of Empathy in Preparing Teachers to Tackle Bullying

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01



Introduction

Educating

Teachers Educating Caring EMPATHY

We will analyze the extent to which teacher empathy can help recognize and tackle bullying.

02



Methodology

1 Post-primary school in Ireland 10 Teachers

1 Survey how empathic are teachers in this school?
 to what extent do their levels of empathy prepare them in tackling bullying?

↓Objective↓

To assess the school's situation and decide what changes need to be made.

02.1 Materials

Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI) (Davis, 1983) (Appendix A)

03



Results

→ PT

IRI

IRI measures 4 items: Perspective Taking (PT); Fantasy Scale (FS), Empathic Concern (EC); and Personal Distress (PD)

It measures cognitive dimensions

16.8 Score close to the mean.

Tendency to get caught up in fictional stories and imagine oneself in the same situations as their fictional characters,

→ FS

15.7 4 Below 6 Above

It measures concern for others

→ EC

16.5 Score close to the mean.

It measures the emotions that hinder helping others

→ PD

12.3 7 Below 2 Above

They may find tackling bullying behavior distressing

04



Discussion and Conclusions

It is imperative that students witness teachers addressing all bullying behavior in order to have confidence that their reports of bullying incidents will not go unheard, thus reinforcing a positive school climate.

Teacher empathy levels

PT Above the MEAN
 FS Above the MEAN
 EC Above the MEAN
 PD On the lower end

→ 1

TEACHERS

They have empathy levels which allow them to tackle bullying.

→ 2

TEACHERS

They can adopt a student's point-of-view, understanding the students' perspective.

→ 3

TEACHERS

Empathy is an important factor for both intervention and prevention in tackling bullying situations.

→ 4

Only quantitative data was gathered from one school, because of which conclusions cannot be generalized.

Limitations