



Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice in CEC schools

Consultative Committee With Parents

Diana Dodd
Principal Officer Equalities
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Diana.dodd@edinburgh.gov.uk

Bullying Definition

- Defined by impact on person being bullied
- Not by intention or frequency
- Intention and frequency determines how you deal with the bullying behaviour

*“Bullying is an **abuse of power** that is defined by its effects. People who are bullied **are upset** by something someone else has done or said to them or about them. They are likely to **fear that this will happen again** and feel powerless to stop it. Bullying is also a breach of childrens’ rights under several articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It includes cyberbullying” (1)*

What Children and Young People Say

“It feels horrible. It makes you doubt yourself” (P7 child)

“Even nice people do it sometimes” (S2 child)

“I think people do it to weaker people because they think it's good to have power over them” (P7 child)

“I think that people do it because they are scared or are having a tough time at home” (P7 child)

- *“A joke can turn into something you never expected” (P7 child)*

Racism/Prejudice Definition

- Legal definition based on Stephen Lawrence murder
- All allegations must be investigated and recorded
- Now applies equally to incidents of homophobia, disability discrimination, faith, sex and transgender

Triggers and Hooks

- My race, skin colour or nationality
- A disability
- Being in care
- My appearance (size, weight, hair colour etc)
- Homophobia (including using 'gay' as verbal insult)
- The way I speak
- My faith or religion
- My family or where I live

Triggers and Hooks Frequency

1. Appearance
2. Homophobia
3. The way I speak
4. Race, skin colour or nationality
5. My faith or religion
6. A disability
7. Being in care

National Initiatives

- *Respectme*, Scotland's National Anti-Bullying Service
- ENABLE funded by Scottish Government
- Research on prejudice-based bullying funded by Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Mentors in Violence Prevention programme partnership with Police Scotland and Scottish Government

Children and Families Strategies

It should never go unchallenged

- Policy, procedures and guidance
- Advice and Complaints Service
- Reports to Heads of Service and Equalities Monitoring Group
- PSE Global Citizenship programmes (EAL)
- Work with partners, Respectme, Red Card, Police, Zero Tolerance etc
- Child Protection training - Cyberbullying

School Strategies

Preventive/Protective/Reactive

Preventive

- ethos – open recognition
- welcoming diversity
- building resilience and empathy (Creating Confident Kids)
- award programmes (Diana Award, UN Rights Respecting Schools, Respectme Award)
- Work with parents to produce leaflets (Craigroyston Cluster)
- Curricular (Holocaust Memorial Day, Martin Luther King, etc)
- Voluntary sector support (TRUE Colours, BME organisations, LGBT Youth, Stonewall, Edinburgh Development Group, Kindred, Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council)



School strategies

Preventive/Protective/Reactive

Protective

- Pupil/staff equalities group (Boroughmuir text service)
- buddy systems
- peer mentors
- nurture and friendship groups
- Additional Support for Learning
- Pupil Support Bases/safe area
- Playground supervision



School strategies

Preventive/Protective/Reactive

Reactive

- restorative practices
- Whole-school training
- Joint campus work (Currie CHS/Woodland)
- referral to specific support services
- involvement of outside agencies
- involvement of parents
- Loss of privileges and sanctions

More to do

- Work to eliminate bullying, racism, homophobia, disability discrimination, sexism and other prejudice-based behaviour
- Raise confidence of children in speaking to adults in the school
- Reduce no. of children worried about bullying
- Raise parents' awareness of internet danger
- Speed up the rate of improvement of schools rated as good or very good (currently 77%)

References and Resources

CEC Policy to Prevent and Respond to Bullying and Prejudice 2013

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/229/bullying_and_harassment

For Parents and Carers

- Respectme, Scotland's anti-bullying service www.respectme.org.uk
T: 0844 8008600 Email: enquire@respectme.org.uk

For Children

- ChildLine 0800 44 1111 (Mon-Fri 11.30am-10pm. Sat-Sun: 2pm-8pm)
- Children's Rights Officer for Looked-After children. Freephone 0800132265



Questions?