



## Checklist of Good Practice

Proactive strategies are those that promote a positive anti-bullying ethos and responsive strategies are those that become effective when dealing with cases of bullying as and when they arise. Best anti-bullying practice shows the need for schools to include both types to combat bullying.

Some questions for schools to consider when planning their anti-bullying intervention include:

- \* Is there a strong ethos in school?
  - Promoting tolerance and respect for difference and diversity
- \* Is there positive leadership from senior staff and governors?
  - How bullying is dealt with within the overall policy on attitudes and behaviour
- \* Is there a clear policy statement about bullying with input from staff, governors, parents and pupils?
  - Including examples of how instances of bullying will be dealt with
- \* Is there a planned approach to the delivery of curriculum content and the issue of bullying?
  - Curriculum work promoting positive, confident relationships and self-esteem
- \* Is there regular training for all staff to raise and maintain awareness?

- Alerting to indicators of bullying and equipping staff with ways of responding to it
- \* Is there periodic consultation with pupils?
  - To find out what types of bullying occurs, when, where, by whom etc.
- \* Are there ways of reporting bullying incidents which protect the identity of those reporting?
  - A range of mechanisms for reporting bullying incidents confidentially
- \* Is there efficient supervision of school grounds by staff?
  - Staff presence at the beginning and end of a school day and at break and lunchtime, particularly in secluded areas
- \* Are there safe play areas or quiet rooms?
  - For those who feel threatened at break times
- \* Are pupils supported to form strong peer relationships?
  - Buddy/mentoring schemes, out of school clubs
- \* Are there independent listeners?
  - Peer support schemes, adults other than school staff
- \* Are strategies for responding to bullying behaviour understood by all staff?
  - Training on the NIABF Effective Responses to Bullying Behaviour resource
- \* Is there involvement of pupils in dealing with instances of bullying?
  - Circle of Friends, Peer Mediation, Peer Support
- \* Is there prompt and thorough response to bullying behaviours?
  - Contact with parents (all children involved) in order to agree a course of action
- \* Is there appropriate recording and monitoring of the situation?
  - Are incidents of bullying recorded centrally and interventions monitored for effectiveness?

Some of these are easier or quicker to put into practice than others, however evidence proves that the most effective way to tackle bullying is through a whole school approach – getting the Board of Governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents working together to promote a strong anti-bullying ethos across the whole school community.