

Introduction

Many children are worried about being bullied. The Children's Commissioner (NICCY) was worried about this and wanted to know **how** children are involved in dealing with bullying in their schools.



How did we do the research?

Researchers visited 14 different schools across Northern Ireland to find out about bullying in schools. Ten young people, who were still at school themselves, helped with the research.



- We looked at school rules on bullying
- We talked to teachers and principals
- We talked to groups of pupils and some pupils on their own
- 687 pupils filled in questionnaires (which is like a long letter which asks lots of questions)
- And we looked at what other people had found out about bullying before us

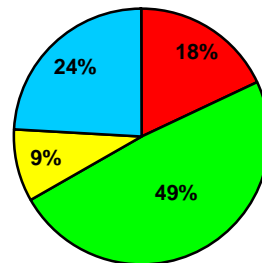
School Rules on Bullying



- All schools had a set of rules on bullying
- Most pupils said they had talked about rules to stop bullying, but they **had not** helped to draw up these rules
- School staff and parents usually decided the rules on bullying
- If pupils reported bullying to a teacher, the school kept this on record

The pie chart below shows that 67% of pupils (two out of three children and young people) were aware of bullying in their school.

Do you think pupils in your school get bullied 'a lot', 'a little' or 'not at all'?



■ A lot ■ A little ■ Not at all ■ Don't know

Learning about Bullying in schools



Some schools used poster competitions, assemblies, circle time or they invited experts from outside school to talk about bullying to the pupils.

Some pupils were not sure what the difference was between having a bit of fun and bullying.

Dealing with Bullying



- Bullying was not tolerated in any school.
- Most pupils knew who in their school was meant to deal with bullying.
- Pupils were most likely to first tell their parents about bullying.
- Few pupils in schools for older children said they would talk to the member of staff who dealt with bullying.
- Teachers from schools in which pupils had *some say* about how their school was run said this had improved the atmosphere in the school.

What Next?

Schools could do a number of things to raise awareness of bullying.



1. Schools need to involve pupils when writing rules on bullying. For example, pupils could talk about bullying during circle time or they could put their ideas on how to stop bullying in a special suggestion box. They could also discuss at a school council meeting what needs to be done in their school to reduce bullying incidents.
2. Pupils need to be kept aware of the ways they can report bullying.
3. Schools need different ways to record bullying. As well as having a book to write down bullying incidents, schools could think about having playground friends or buddy schemes to help children tackle bullying in school.



NICCY's three main tasks are:

- to ensure children and young people know about the rights they have;
- to take action when children's rights are being ignored;
- to undertake research relevant to children and young people and the services available for them.

You can get in touch with NICCY:

By phone: 028 9031 1616

By e-mail: info@niccy.org

By internet: www.niccy.org

Or by writing to:

NICCY, Millennium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast, BT2 7BN



NCB is an umbrella body for organisations working with children and young people in England and Northern Ireland. NCB wants to be a voice to improve the lives of children and young people.

You can get in touch with NCB:

By phone: 020 7843 6000 or 028 90974607

By internet: www.youngncb.org.uk

Or by writing to:

NCB, 8 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7QE or
NCB, c/o ICCR, 5a Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY

Being Part and Parcel of the School

The views of children and young people about bullying in schools

A Summary for Children in Primary and Special Schools



Bullying can involve:



being called names, being hit or attacked, being ignored and left out, having your bag or other belongings taken and thrown around, being forced to hand over money or other belongings...

Because:

of your weight, or your looks, or your family, or because you are popular or unpopular, you work hard or don't work hard, you have a different religion or culture, you wear glasses, and many other reasons...

