

>> USEFUL WEBSITES ON BULLYING

www.nicie.org

www.stonewall.org.uk

www.antibully.org.uk

www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

www.bullying.co.uk

www.bullying.newham.net

www.childline.org.uk

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.kidscape.org.uk

www.mediataionuk.org.uk

www.nobully.org.nz

www.savethechildren.org.uk

www.mifc-pii.org

"HAVING YOUR SAY IN BULLYING POLICIES"

>> GUIDANCE TO PROMOTE
THE INVOLVEMENT OF PUPILS
IN ANTI-BULLYING SCHOOL POLICIES



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northern ireland commissioner
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NICCY has three main tasks. These are to make sure children know about their rights, researching those rights and problems, and taking action to help when children's rights are being ignored or underplayed.

If you have a complaint about the way a child is being treated, or if you require further advice on how to engage with children, please contact us:

By phone: **028 9031 1616**

By e-mail: info@niccy.org

By the internet: www.niccy.org

Or by writing to:

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

You can also contact us by Minicom on 028 9031 6393, or by using the Relay Services to contact NICCY's telephone number (028 9031 1616).

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BULLYING

>> INTRODUCTION

Research shows that bullying continues to be a problem in schools across Northern Ireland (Childline 1998, Collins et al 2002, Davey et al 2004, DE 2002, Kilkelly et al 2004, Save the Children 2002, 2005, Schubotz and Sinclair 2006). In light of these findings, this booklet contains a series of suggestion cards which offer a range of practical ideas on how to maximise pupils' involvement in the drawing up of an anti-bullying policy and raise awareness of this issue in schools. Involving pupils in decision making processes around anti-bullying strategies is important for two reasons:

1. Research shows that many pupils are likely to have witnessed or experienced bullying. They are therefore in a unique position to make suggestions on how best to tackle this problem in school. Schools should therefore capitalise on pupils' knowledge of this issue.
2. Schools who do not involve pupils when drawing up a policy on bullying are breaking the law. Since 2003, all schools are required to have an anti-bullying policy and to consult with pupils when drawing up this policy (Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) further states that children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical and mental violence (Articles 19 and 23), while Article 12 states that children have the right to be involved in all matters that affect them and this includes the writing of an anti-bullying policy for their school.



To help schools carry out their duty of involving pupils in the drawing up of an anti-bullying policy this booklet provides details on:

- Practical awareness raising strategies to encourage pupils to think about bullying.
- How to use the feedback from awareness raising strategies to write an anti-bullying policy.
- Guidelines on how to set up a school council which could monitor the implementation of the anti-bullying policy.
- Information on how peer mediation schemes can help reduce bullying through peer support networks.
- The importance of recording and reviewing anti-bullying policies.

By empowering pupils to share in decision making processes, these guidelines aim to support schools who wish to ground their anti-bullying policy in the experiences and views of all those who make up the schooling community.



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