

For further advice and information contact:-

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Time to STOP bullying

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SUNDERLAND



Parents guide to bullying at school



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My child is being bullied

As a parent it is natural to feel angry and upset if you discover that your child is being bullied.

However if you become upset and angry in front of your child this will only make matters worse and may prevent them telling you about problems in the future.

If your child tells you they are being bullied the first and most important step is to LISTEN to what they are telling you

When your child has told you their problem your first instinct would be to protect your child and sort it out yourself this would be the response your child will be dreading.

Your child's biggest fear at this point will probably be that the bullying will get worse because they have told someone so don't rush to the school demanding to see the Head teacher, the bully or the bully's parents.

Instead stay calm

Talk to your child about what to do next, reassure them and write down incidents as they happened stating who, where and when. At this point although it will be very difficult you need to look for solutions not blame and keep in mind that your child might have played a part in the incident.

The meeting

Then when you are sure you have the entire facts make an appointment to see your child's class teacher (Primary), Head of Year /House (Secondary) with your child. It is important that you stay calm whilst discussing the incidents as this will give your child confidence that there will be a positive outcome.

Before you leave the meeting you need to know exactly what is going to be done to address the issue, and who is going to address it you will also need to make another appointment to discuss progress.

Your child will need to know who to go to in school if they are feeling vulnerable.

It may be that the bullying doesn't stop straight away. Encourage your child to keep telling and to keep a diary of the incidents. If it persists contact the school to arrange another meeting.

Take it further

If you are not satisfied with the teachers or Head of House/years response don't give up, become angry or share your frustration with your child. There are other steps you can take. Ask to speak to the Head teacher stay calm and persistent and explain what the issues are.

If after speaking to the Head teacher you still feel that the school is not taking the incidents seriously write a formal letter to the Head of Governors clearly stating the facts and request an appointment

Further information can be found

www.sunderlandschools.org

www.gov.uk/government/publications

Policy

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides that schools must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. These measures should be part of the school's behaviour policy which must be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents.