

Peer mediation and peer mentoring - group approach

There has been mixed feedback regarding the use of peer mediation and peer mentoring to reduce bullying behaviours in a school community, and very limited evidence of its use with learners with SEND. In some settings, peer mentors could help address some of the low-level behaviours that, if unchecked, can escalate into bullying behaviours may be worth exploring (such as social isolation, name-calling, temporary theft of bags, pencils, coats, etc.).

Responsible adults cannot be everywhere; a teacher cannot see everything. But responsible members of the pupil body can be empowered advocates within a whole school approach to reducing bullying and the impact of relational conflict.

Some Primary schools have “anti-bullying patrols”; one primary school has trained “squabble busters”!; a secondary school supplements School Meal Supervisors with trained Year 11 students.

LINK TO RESOURCES

- Group approach to dealing with bullying
- Peer Mediation (Scottish Mediation)
- Anti-Bullying Alliance materials on Restorative Practice
- Restorative Thinking

RESPOND		
RESPOND- in a graduated way		
QUICK WIN or MEDIUM / LONG TERM?	LT- long term M/LTG	SOCIAL CONTEXT VBC- relating to CYP who show bullying behaviours, who are being bullied and the wider community
PHASE	ALL ALL	VBC 
WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY	Preferred a graduated, non-punitive or non-sanction-based response to bullying behaviours (sometimes sanction-based approaches worsen the situation)	
WHAT PARENTS SAY	Take action against the bullying behaviours It is important that something is done; it could be a conversation, a meeting, getting an individual to acknowledge their actions and apologise, or to move the person showing bullying behaviours to another class; warning of exclusion (if used selectively) so that the person knows they cannot continue this type of bullying behaviour; could be short term actions, could be longer term support.	
WHAT RESEARCHERS SAY	Low-level bullying behaviour has potential to escalate	
COST RESOURCE	Training and time requirements- to train and support pupils... and the staff training and supporting the pupils	
RELATED STRATEGIES		



For more information on the programme, visit the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) information hub. These resources are hosted and developed by [Achievement for All](#)

