

Raising standards by reducing the impact and incidence of bullying on vulnerable learners

ANTI-BULLYING PROJECT



An opportunity for Achievement for All 3As partner schools:
FREE DfE-funded training and leadership development (primary, secondary, special and PRUs) to support learners with SEND at risk of bullying

Summary

The link between well-being and high achievement is a known fact.

Schools have made progress over the past twenty years in addressing the social and cultural causes of bullying, and in developing strategies to deal with incidents as they arise. However, evidence shows there is still more to do:

- The Office of the Children's Commissioner found that disabled children and those with visible medical conditions can be **twice as likely** as their peers to become **targets for bullying behaviour**.
- The National Autistic Society found that **40%** of children on the **autistic spectrum** had been bullied at school.
- Mencap found that nearly **nine out of 10** people with a learning disability experience some form of bullying, with over **two-thirds experiencing it on a regular basis**.

The impact of bullying grows worse as young people move through the education system. Achievement for All 3As, in partnership with the Anti-Bullying Alliance, the Council for Disabled Children and Contact a Family, are delivering an innovative and sustainable programme of work to safeguard children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from bullying in schools.

The programme will draw on existing and developing effective practice, and on expert advice to understand the distinct vulnerabilities of children with particular SEND to bullying. It will help schools to explore bullying and victimisation in new meaningful ways. The programme will also be designed to build capability and specialist skills in the teaching workforce and to develop leadership approaches to secure positive whole school culture and processes in relation to anti-bullying.

Full participation in the programme will also yield valuable evidence to feed into the self-evaluation process, in an Ofsted priority area even for schools rated outstanding.

“...BULLYING IS SURELY THE MOST PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED, THE MOST POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO WELL-BEING, THE AREA WHERE WE MOST NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. WE KNOW BULLYING HAPPENS BUT HOW TO MINIMISE IT AND HOW TO ADDRESS IT, HAS TO BE INFORMED BY THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.”
Perspectives on Bullying and Difference, ed. McLaughlin, Byers and Oliver 2012

The Programme

Achievement for All 3As is offering all its participating schools (primary, secondary special and PRUs) a **free** comprehensive package of training and support. Workshops will run simultaneously in ten geographical regions.:

THE MAIN EVENT:

A full day of training plus access to an array of free resources. This will consist of:

- Exploring the dynamics and interactions between victim, perpetrator and community; SEND specific issues;
- Audit of existing effective practice within school; identifying school-specific areas of change; reviewing effective practice nationally; impact of effective practice on Ofsted evaluative judgments;
- Selecting quick-wins for immediate impact, and longer term developments to transform practice and outcomes;
- Agreeing actions and implementation plans; agreeing what data will inform evaluation.

FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT AND REVIEW WORKSHOPS:

The earlier you join the programme, the more comprehensive the support package.

Start before Easter 2014, and your school will benefit from a half-day review session after six months, and an opportunity for a half-day cluster review and evaluation session after a year.

Schools joining before November 2014 will benefit from one support session. Late joiners will just receive the core training and access to the supporting resources. The workshops will be facilitated by specialist Coaches:

- Sharing the journey (the story so far);
- Sharing practice (what is working, what isn't working, identifying barriers to change and strategies to overcome them);
- Identifying changes to plans.
- Impact audit;
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis;
- Sharing emerging effective practice from across the country;
- Next steps

“...I WAS AT SCHOOL, AND THEY CALLED ME A WORD. IT WAS SPASTIC. IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME AT FIRST, BUT THEN A WEEK WENT ON AND THEY CALLED ME IT AGAIN AND AGAIN. OVER AND OVER.”

Council for Disabled Children, 2012

“...I WANT SCHOOLS TO TAKE BULLYING MORE SERIOUSLY- DISABLED CHILDREN ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO BULLYING... TEACHERS COULD TEACH CLASSES ABOUT DISABILITY... DISABLED KIDS COULD HELP IF THEY WANTED TO...LIKE AN ASSEMBLY OR PLAY ABOUT BULLYING AND DISABILITY... OR A RAP...A BIT LIKE A NEW LESSON....

Council for Disabled Children. 2012

School commitment

Schools will commit to supporting one member of staff (ideally a senior colleague) to attend the session(s). The training clusters will be spread across ten geographical areas to minimise travel costs.

Many of the effective practice interventions and actions will require little in the way of additional resources to implement. However, some interventions may require additional specialist training and resources.

It is strongly recommended that, at some stage of the programme, all staff, governors, parents and, of course, pupils, are involved in reviewing school anti-bullying practice, and identifying areas of change. The Anti-Bullying Alliance is designing a SEND specific well-being questionnaire to which participating schools will have free access which will help to assess and evaluate impact.

The programme has begun. In each geographical region, there will be nine opportunities to join the training between November 2013 and March 2015. DfE is funding this programme with the expectation that all Achievement for All partner schools will want to participate and benefit from the high quality improvement materials.

“...IF I’M BEING BULLIED I FEEL LIKE I’M IN THIS BLACK BOX AND CAN’T GET OUT.

Council for Disabled Children, 2012

Benefits

- Access to the latest research findings and a comprehensive directory of effective practice.
- Audit tools to help to identify interventions that will have highest impact.
- Materials (presentations, audit tools, etc.) suitable to support whole school training and staff development.
- Evidence base for self-evaluation

Invitation to join

We are looking for 200 schools to join before Christmas 2013. Thereafter, we have the capacity for an additional 450 to join the programme every term. To register to join complete the on-line registration form available on the Achievement for All 3As website www.afa3as.org.uk/antibullying. Please contact Ann Ruthven (antibullying@afa3as.org.uk) at Achievement for All 3As for further details.

For more information on the whole project sign up for the monthly bulletin <http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/1198>