

Graduated, appropriate action against child who is bullying, in negotiation with the child who has been bullied and their families

It is interesting to note that a lot young people with SEND and their parents wish to see non-punitive, non-sanction-based approaches as a first resort; it may help address underlying causes (lack of understanding about disability, etc.)...

however, every case must be dealt with in a manner proportional to the nature and extent of the bullying, and the impact it has had on the young person who has been bullied. It should not be perceived in any way as a “soft option”.

If attempts are made to use restorative approaches to reducing the likelihood of re-occurrence to bullying (see related strategies), it is vital that all parties (CYP who has been bullied, CYP who has bullied, families, staff) are fully informed of the course of action chosen, and the reasons why. **Without a process of dialogue and negotiation, parents and CYP who have been bullied may feel that a school is not taking an incident seriously enough.**

Furthermore, restorative approaches can only be deployed with the full agreement of all parties. Peer mediation may be another way forward.

Both approaches will demand that key individuals within the school community are fully trained and supported, especially when working with vulnerable learners.

RESPOND		
RESPOND- in a graduated way		
QUICK WIN or MEDIUM / LONG TERM?	MT- medium term M/LTG	SOCIAL CONTEXT VBC- relating to CYP who bully, who are being bullied and the wider community
PHASE	ALL ALL	
WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY	Preferred a graduated, non-punitive or non-sanction-based response to bullying (sometimes sanction-based approaches worsen the situation)	
WHAT PARENTS SAY	Take action against the bullies 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 bully to another class; warning of exclusion (if used selectively) so that the bully knows they cannot continue this type of behaviour; could be short term actions, could be longer term support.	
WHAT RESEARCHERS SAY	Low-level bullying behaviour has potential to escalate	
COST RESOURCE	This approach will need careful consideration, consistency in application and coherent implementation. Changes to behaviour policy?	
RELATED STRATEGIES	Restorative Approaches Peer Mediation	



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

