

# Partnership with Parents - an Anti-bullying Strategy

Presenter

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## Children who are upset

- Need to tell
- Need to be listened to
- Need to be helped
- Need to be clear why this situation has come about

# What is Bullying?

It can take several forms:

- Verbal - as in name calling, racial abuse etc.
- Social - e.g. not being spoken to or being left out of activities
- Material - e.g. when possessions are stolen or damaged or extortion takes place
- Mental - as when pressure to conform is applied
- Physical - as in physical assault

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# Bullying?

## Are we talking the same language?

Bullying is:

- distressing and hurtful to the victim - rather than good-natured fun
- systematic and ongoing - rather than one off
- always one way - rather than an exchange
- done by the more powerful to the less - rather than between equals

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## Why does language matter?

- It is particularly important to distinguish bullying from CONFLICT between children.
- Schools, pupils & parents MUST take appropriate responsibility
- Effective PARTNERSHIP is the key to resolving any upset which affects a pupil

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## Anti-Bullying Policy

- Drawn up in conjunction with staff, parents and pupils
- Clear proactive & reactive strategies
- Responsibilities of staff, pupils & parents

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## Working directly with pupils & parents

- Listen to what is upsetting the pupil
- Give assistance & advice for keeping safe
- Temporary arrangements for safer journeys to/from school
- Work quickly with “perpetrator” & parents to avoid further incidents

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## Working through SFSS

- Contact with parents on home ground
- Work with pupils to gain their co-operation in fixing the problem
- “Shared concern” work in school
- Agree a “mediation” plan if appropriate

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## Creating a positive Ethos

- Introduced a school Activities Week at low or no cost to maximise participation
- Involved Pupil Councils - gave them cash!
- Encouraged extra-curricular and inter-house activities

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## Getting your message across

- Meet with community representatives & the press
- Give an overview and explain the context
- Explain your proactive & reactive strategies
- Discuss and LISTEN

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