



**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND OTHER
SERVICES WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE:**

**ANTI-BULLYING POLICY AND PRACTICES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

PART ONE: CONTEXT

This document provides advice and guidance to schools and other children's services to support the development of anti-bullying policies and to highlight areas of good practice. It provides information relating to current legal responsibilities and is set within the context of the national and local priorities including:

Every Child Matters: Change for Children

- The Children Act 2004
- National Strategy for school improvement
- National Healthy School Status
- PSHE National Framework
- Inspecting Schools Framework 2003
- Communities the case audit 2005

Services must be clear about the definition of bullying and have considered the impact of bullying on the well-being of the individual. This must be addressed through a range of strategies which include, preventative, intervention and reactive strategies.

No-one ever deserves to be bullied. It is important that children and young people who may be prone to being bullied because of changes, difficulties and uncertainties in their lives have their specific needs considered.

PART TWO: APPLICATION IN SCHOOLS

All schools and children's settings are expected to have a policy which sets out the establishments role in relation to all bullying matters. Those without a policy should develop one as a matter of urgency. The policy should be developed, implemented and reviewed with all stakeholders and be widely disseminated, readily available and updated.

Good anti-bullying practice requires settings to have a strong ethos which promotes tolerance and respect, strong leadership, clear incident reporting systems and regular staff training. It is also important that preventative approaches are in place and that procedures and practice are regularly reviewed and monitored. Support for victims must be in place and the establishment must actively challenge bullying to endorse a safe learning and living environment.

PART THREE: RESOURCES

Regular monitoring and evaluation of policy and practice must be in place to ensure that young people feel safe and secure. Review should be undertaken by all stakeholders to ensure that all perspectives are taken into consideration.

Settings should respond to consultations with stakeholders to ensure that policy and practice is further enhanced.

Clear referral protocols and communication routes should be established to enable young people to feel safe when reporting incidents of bullying.

This must be supported by a range of systems, advice and guidance available for the individual in order for the matter to be resolved and for the individual to know and feel valued and cared for.

PART FOUR: APPENDICES

Advice should be made available to young people and their parents / carers about how to deal with Bullying to empower them to take positive action to challenge bullying behaviours.