

Anti-Bullying Week 14 – 18 November 2011: What's happening in Norfolk?

This year's theme is verbal bullying and challenging derogatory language: 'Stop and think – words can hurt'. In Norfolk, we have broadened the theme to tie in with the year of communication, speech and language. We also want people to consider children who have limited language skills or no language skills who are bullied and how we can support them. There is advice on using assertiveness techniques such as your non-verbal behaviour to protect yourself from being bullied.

Events include:

1. Mind your Language Day – Tuesday 15 November 2011

The public will be encouraged to show their support against verbal bullying by wearing blue and promising to use respectful language and challenge derogatory language. Schools and organisations can arrange their own 'best in blue' competitions and we hope that the day will highlight how much better conversations are when we use respectful language. Why not join in? You can update us and be updated on Twitter, follow #NorfolkABW

2. Art Exhibition and Forum event, Norwich – Tuesday 15th November 2011 9am - 5pm

This multi-agency event, led by speech and language therapists, showcases artwork produced by schools across Norfolk and focuses on communication. There will also be a range of stands including Information on '2011: The year of speech, language and communication' and anti-bullying. The public will be invited to participate in a bullying survey and share how positive and negative words make them feel. For further information contact, ruth.smallwood@norfolk.gov.uk

3. 'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but WORDS can really hurt me' Conference at John Innes Centre 18 November 2011 8.45 am – 3.45 pm

A free multi-agency conference which addresses our theme of communication and bullying with speakers from the Communication Trust, Bullying Intervention Group and Beat Bullying. There are ten workshop choices for delegates covering cyberbullying, tools for communication, supporting children with ASD, using technology to support children, diversity issues, restorative justice and restorative approaches, dealing with parental complaints and teaching children assertiveness skills (see attached flyer for information), Contact michele.blazey@norfolk.gov.uk to register for the conference and Rita Adair – rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk for further information.

4. Online bullying survey for Years 5 – 10.

This free online survey will be available to all schools who have pupils aged Year 5 – Years 10. Full details will be sent to schools shortly via the Headteacher and attached is a letter to explain the survey and a PDF of the survey itself. The survey will take place from 9 am 14 November to 5 pm 2 December 2011. For further details contact Rita Adair – rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk

5. Resources for Anti-Bullying Week 2011

Resources for the week will be available on the schools website shortly – www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/go/bullying and click on Anti-Bullying Week 2011. The Anti-Bullying Alliance has produced a pack of resources and ideas for schools – see www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

6. What will your school be doing during Anti-Bullying Week?

Let me know what events your school is planning and if you would like media involvement. Please complete the attached proforma and return to me as soon as possible – Rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk

If you need any further information about Anti-Bullying Week, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Have a good week!

Rita Adair, Senior Educational Psychologist