

Norfolk audits bullying during Anti-Bullying Week (19 – 23 November)

Background

I am writing to invite your school to participate in Norfolk's first countywide bullying survey. Many of you will be aware that we have been considering a range of questionnaires which will give us the information we require. We believe that the pupil questionnaire produced by the Anti-Bullying Alliance (see www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk Audit Toolkit) not only gives us details relating to the prevalence of bullying in Norfolk, but also informs us how much our children and young people know about the anti-bullying initiatives we have implemented in our schools to combat bullying.

Why should your school take part?

Your school's involvement in this survey will enable Norfolk Children's Services to have an extensive overview of bullying in Norfolk. We will begin to be able to target our services to schools to meet your needs and ultimately create safer environments where bullying is reduced.

How can your school participate and what will happen with the results?

We are asking all schools with Years 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils to take part during Anti-Bullying Week (19- 23 November. The survey ends at 6 pm on 23 November). This is a short questionnaire and will take no more than 10 – 20 minutes to complete. The survey is available to complete on Survey Monkey – it is very simple to do and there are no technical skills involved. The link is <http://schools.norfolk.gov.uk/go/antibullying> If you have any difficulties contact Duncan Slack – Duncan.slack@norfolk.gov.uk . The information will be collated and made available on the Norfolk schools website www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk. To ensure confidentiality individual pupils or schools will not be identifiable.

What is bullying?

Before embarking on the questionnaire it is important that all children and young people are clear about what bullying is and what it is not. A brief discussion with pupils before completing the survey will help. The questionnaire defines bullying as: "Bullying means people doing nasty or unkind things to you on purpose, more than once, which it is difficult to stop." This definition emphasises the three key characteristics of bullying i.e. the intention to hurt, repetitive nature of it and the difficulty those bullied have defending themselves against it. In contrast, bullying differs from a situation where two friends of equal strength have the odd fall out or quarrel.

We hope you will participate in this survey and thank you for helping us to ensure that we are effectively supporting anti-bullying work in Norfolk.

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