

Addressing Bullying In Schools- Consultation Document

Addressing Bullying in Schools

Young Person's Consultation Booklet

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Introduction

The Department of Education is inviting comments on proposed anti-bullying legislation.

In June 2014, the Minister for Education, John O'Dowd, announced his intention to bring forward new legislation, within the remaining Assembly mandate, to help tackle the problem of bullying in our schools.

The proposed legislation will

- Provide a common definition of bullying;
- Introduce a requirement for all grant-aided schools to centrally record complaints of bullying, motivating factors behind the bullying behaviour and the actions taken by the school in addressing each complaint; and
- Introduce a requirement for each Board of Governors (**BoG**) to identify and designate one or more members, with responsibility for the development of its anti-bullying policies and for their proper implementation within the school.

The Department would welcome your views on these proposals and all interested parties are encouraged to make their responses as soon as possible before the consultation closing date of **27 February 2015**

Name (Optional)

Please tick the box that best describes your school year;

PRIMARY PUPILS

P1
P2
P3
P4
P5
P6
P7

POST- PRIMARY PUPILS

First Year
Second Year
Third Year
Fourth Year
Fifth Year
Lower Sixth
Upper Sixth

Name of School (if applicable)

School Reference Number (if applicable)

The Department may make responses available on the website www.deni.gov.uk, although contact names and addresses would be removed.

Please note that under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (Annex A) your response may be made available, on request, to the public.

If you would prefer your response to remain confidential, please tick this box

Comments and responses should be submitted by 27 February 2015 to:

Pbmt.addressingbullyinginschools@deni.gov.uk

or

Pupil Behaviour Management Team
Room F17
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

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**Q1: Do you agree that what is meant by ‘bullying’ should be explained by law?
(Please select only one)**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know

Q2: Do you agree that hurtful or unhelpful behaviour only becomes bullying when it happens more than once? (Please select only one)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know

Q3: Do you agree that bullying happens between pupils and does not include staff or teachers in how they treat, or are treated by, pupils? (Please select only one)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know

Q4: Do you agree that schools should keep a record of how the bullying happened, why it happened and how it was resolved? (Please select only one)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know

Q5: Do you agree that the recording of bullying details by schools could help schools reduce bullying in the future? (Please select only one)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know

Q6: Do you agree that schools should be able to stop bullying online;

Situation	Yes	No
When it happens during school hours		
When it happens using school equipment		
When it happens in school		
At any time except during school holidays		

Q7: Do you agree that a school's Board of Governors should have one or more members responsible for helping to stop bullying? (Please select only one)

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know

Q8: Overall-Any other comments?

ANNEX A- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature;
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).