

The new Anti-Bullying Policy

Whole school approaches to promoting positive relationships and a culture where everyone takes ownership of tackling bullying is where we start.

Key facts: Bullying behaviour affects children's health and wellbeing; bullying is NEVER acceptable; bullying is a breach of children's rights and it is every child's right NOT to be bullied; this new policy is being adopted by all schools in Shetland.

The language around bullying has changed.

Language that is OUT

Repetition
Intent
Premeditated
First offence

We no longer use the terms - bully / bullies or perpetrators

We no longer use the term victim

Language that is IN

We ask - what was the behaviour (facts)?
We ask - what was the impact (feelings)?

We use the term - child displaying bullying behaviour

We use the term - child experiencing bullying behaviour

Types of bullying behaviour:
social; verbal; emotional, physical, material. This can be done face to face or online.

All prejudice based bullying will be responded to equally.

Responding to incidents: consideration of the behaviour (facts) and impact (feelings), as well as the wishes of the child experiencing the bullying behaviour determines whether the incident is treated as a bullying behaviour or whether it should be addressed as an incident of unkindness or indiscipline.

Parents are viewed as positive partners in working towards a resolution of bullying behaviour. Once the views of the child experiencing and the child displaying the bullying behaviour have been taken into account, the school should then contact the parents.

Parents are notified once the school has: identified bullying behaviour and impact; has responded to the incident and concluded the matter. However opportunities for dialogue with parents/carers should be available throughout the process.

All incidents of bullying behaviour are recorded on SEEMiS. Bullying data is monitored annually by the local authority.