

National Thematic: Bullying

The purpose of this national thematic is to evaluate the approaches taken by schools to record and monitor incidents of bullying. HM Inspectors will provide a national overview of the approaches adopted in their national report.

Reflective Questions for professional dialogue with school staff

1. Approaches schools have taken to record incidents of bullying

How well does your anti-bullying policy support learners and how do you know?

- Are you aware of any anti-bullying policy used in the school and its purpose?
- In what ways were you involved in the development and ongoing implementation of the anti-bullying policy?
- How do you contribute to an ethos which promotes equality and diversity?
- What strategies do you use to address all forms of prejudice driven bullying in the classroom?
- How does the implementation of your anti-bullying policy promote respect, celebrate difference and promote positive relationships?
- How does your anti-bullying policy and practice promote prevention rather than simply be reactive?
- How do children and young people learn about bullying and develop the skills to cope with it in your school?
- What is the role of the bullying coordinator in the school, if it exists, and how does this person support you as well as the children and young people?

Recording incidents of bullying

- What responsibility do you have for recording incidents of bullying?
- How and where do you record these incidents?
- How many incidents of bullying have you recorded in the last session? (2021-2022)?
- If directly accessing SEEMiS, what training have you received?
- How are incidents of bullying most reported and by whom?
- What process is in place for informing SLT? Parents?
- What are the main strengths and challenges around recording incidents of bullying in the school?

2. The arrangements for monitoring incidents of bullying

How well does the school's approaches to monitoring incidents of bullying inform any changes to practice or policy?

- How are cases of bullying monitored at school and classroom level?
- Considering children and young people's right to privacy, how do you ensure all relevant stakeholders, including parents and learners, are made aware of the actions taken following an incident of bullying?
- How do staff assess the impact on individuals'/ groups' wellbeing following a perceived incident of bullying?
- How are trends and patterns and subsequent actions across the school shared with you?

- What are the emerging themes and trends?
- What are the benefits to young people of monitoring and recording incidents of bullying in the school?

3. The effectiveness of measures taken to respond to incidents of bullying and in supporting children and young people.

What measures are used to support children and young people and how well are these working?

- What anti-bullying intervention/strategies have been implemented in classroom/school to address any emerging issues/ themes? How do you evaluate their impact?
- What resources are most utilised to support your work on anti-bullying?
- Are your approaches resulting in reducing incidents of bullying in your school/classroom? How do you know?
- What support do children and young people receive following incidents of bullying?
- When responding to bullying incidents how do you ensure children and young people's privacy?
- Do you use wellbeing indicators to assess the impact of incidents of bullying and support the resolution to bullying incidents?
- What professional learning do you undertake to support a consistent approach to anti-bullying?
- What role do partners have in responding to incidents of bullying?