

SCOTTISH ADVISORY GROUP ON RELATIONSHIPS AND BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOLS (SAGRABIS)

BRIEFING FOR EDUCATION SCOTLAND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE EVALUATION OF RECORDING AND MONITORING BULLYING INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS

Background

SAGRABIS is a group of representatives from key education stakeholders (teaching unions, professional organisations, stakeholder organisations, COSLA, ES and SG) that gives advice to national and local government about behaviour and relationships in Scotland's schools.

The group is chaired jointly by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and the Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

Remit and aims

The remit of the group, which covers all staff (teaching, support staff and those from partner organisations) and all children and young people in Scottish schools, is to provide advice to national and local government and other relevant stakeholders on matters such as:

- Promoting positive relationships and behaviour (including anti-bullying) in schools and establishments for all children and young people (3-18) in order to create a positive ethos and climate for learning.
- the programme of work set out in *Better Relationships, Better Learning, Better Behaviour 2013* and any future updates (update: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-positive-whole-school-ethos-culture-relationships-learning-behaviour/pages/1/>)
- the Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research

The aim of the group is to:

- Continue to promote and support the development of good relationships and positive behaviour in Scottish schools against a background of a positive ethos and culture of mutual respect and trust based upon shared values across whole school communities where everyone can learn and work in a peaceful and safe environment.
- provide leadership and consensus on effective strategies to promote positive relationships and support staff to manage more challenging behaviour in schools and establishments. This will include agreeing, overseeing and responding to relevant research into relationship and behaviour in schools.
- provide advice and support for local authorities and schools on how to develop and implement those strategies. This will include consideration of how best to identify and disseminate innovative practice across Scotland.

Membership

- Scottish Government (Minister for Learning and Skills) – Joint Chair
- COSLA (Spokesperson on Education, Children and Young People) – Joint Chair
- Association of Directors of Education Scotland (ADES)
- General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)
- Education Institute for Scotland (EIS)
- Scottish Secondary Teachers Association (SSTA)
- School Leaders Scotland (SLS)
- Association of Headteachers and Deputies Scotland (AHDS)
- National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
- Voice the Union
- Association of Scottish Principal Educational Psychologists (ASPEP)
- Scottish Teacher Education Committee (STEC)
- *respectme*
- National Parent Forum for Scotland (NPFSS)
- Education Scotland

Evaluation of the National Approach to Recording and Monitoring

Following the publication of 'Respect for All' in November 2017, a consistent approach to recording and monitoring incidents of bullying in schools was developed and agreed by the **Recording and Monitoring Bullying Incidents in Schools (RAMBIS)** working group. This group was made up of a wide range of stakeholders with expertise in this area. Further details on the group and their recommendations can be found here - <https://www.gov.scot/groups/recording-and-monitoring-incidents-of-bullying-in-schools/>

This work came about from calls from a number of stakeholders to make recording and monitoring of bullying incidents statutory. However, an agreement was reached for a new approach to be developed on a voluntary basis with the understanding that an **evaluation would be carried out to assess how successfully the new system had been embedded.**

The group published supplementary **Guidance on Recording and Monitoring of Bullying Incidents in Schools**¹ in May 2018 and the recommendations² from the group were accepted by the Deputy First Minister.

As well as the guidance produced by RAMBIS, updates agreed by the group were made to the Bullying and Equalities module and the monitoring facilities in SEEMiS. SEEMiS colleagues produced supporting technical user guidance for staff accessing the system.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supplementary-guidance-recording-monitoring-bullying-incidents-schools/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rambis-recommendations/>

An Operational Support Group (OSG), chaired by ADES and made up of Scottish Government officials, Education Scotland colleagues, respectme, SEEMiS colleagues and teaching unions commenced in June 2018. The OSG supported all local authorities to implement the new process on a phased approach throughout the academic year 2018/19. respectme, the national anti-bullying service also played a key supportive role for local authorities during this time.

From August 2019, all schools and local authorities were expected to be using the new approach to recording and monitoring.

Last year, SAGRABIS members agreed to take forward the evaluation. The evaluation **will consider how the new approach to recording and monitoring has been implemented across primary, secondary and special schools and will assess whether the updated approach which has been rolled out across Scotland, is working for children and young people.**

An interim evaluation was carried out towards the end of 2019. This was undertaken in consultation with teaching unions, COSLA, local authorities and Education Scotland. The results of the internal evaluation can be shared with ES to help inform the evaluation.