



<p>1. Title: Sharing good practice and actively involving children and young people in Anti-Bullying</p>
<p>2. Area (Local Authority and Region): Wiltshire Council in the South West Region</p>
<p>3. What was the issue? Wiltshire set up an Anti-Bullying Steering Group in 2008. One of the group's 4 main aims is to "involve children and young people in the development of Anti-Bullying". We recognise that children and young people have a wealth of understanding about bullying and how to prevent and respond to bullying most effectively and we wanted to ensure that our work had this understanding at its core.</p>
<p>4. What action was taken? Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Steering Group chose to hold 3 Anti-Bullying Conferences, 2 for primary schools and 1 for Secondary and Special Schools. Two members of staff and two pupils (from years 5 to 13) came to represent each school. In total 45 primary schools, 18 secondary schools and 1 special school attended the conferences as well as officers from Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire NHS. The main aim of the conferences was to foreground the views of children and young people on the issue of preventing and responding to bullying. We hoped that this would encourage Wiltshire schools to involve students more actively in devising and monitoring anti-bullying strategies and that Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Steering Group would design our action plan based on the views and understanding of these children and young people. Therefore the conferences employed a range of participation strategies, including a 'Big Brother' style diary room where young people's and adults' opinions were filmed; small workshops led by young people; a graffiti wall; a visual agenda on which young people could write their notes during the conference; and presentations delivered by young people.</p>
<p>5. What impact has this had (so far)? The conferences received overwhelmingly positive informal feedback and formal evaluation. When we asked the adults and young people what they had learnt from the conference: one secondary school student stated that "Students should be more involved in anti-bullying projects" whilst a Secondary school teacher said "The power of young people's voices are moving and motivating and have clarity and enthusiasm." One primary school pupil said that "Bullying is everybody's responsibility" whilst another stated that "the main thing I have learnt is that we can beat bullying as a team." Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Steering Group wanted to ensure that all pupils and staff from the schools that attended were involved and learnt from the conferences. We therefore sent pre-conference and post-conference tasks that required the schools to use their school and class councils to cascade the information/consultation. This was very successful and ensured that the learning did not only benefit the delegates that attended the conferences. We also made a DVD of the video clips from the Big Brother chair and sent this out to all schools in Wiltshire.</p>
<p>6. How did the above action help to embed anti-bullying work in your area? As a result of the conferences, Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Steering Group is now working with a group of school councils to design and create a series of Anti-Bullying web pages. The web pages are being produced by and for children and young people and are designed to enable young people to share good practice in anti-bullying preventative strategies and share information about support services for young people who are experiencing bullying. The DVD of the conference clips has helped to foreground the views of children and young people on the issue of bullying and is a lasting reminder of these views.</p>
<p>7. Additional information and/or contact details (OPTIONAL): Catharine Quirk – Schools Adviser for SEAL, Anti-Bullying and Emotional Health and Well-Being catharine.quirk@wiltshire.gov.uk</p>

Wiltshire's children, young people and adults says "No" to bullying and "Yes" to friendships

Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Steering Group organised 3 anti-bullying conferences in November 2008 for primary, secondary and special schools. The strap line (above) was used at the primary conferences. The main aims of the conferences were to give schools in Wiltshire a platform to share good practice and to actively involve children and young people in discussing anti-bullying and planning anti-bullying strategies.

In total 45 primary schools, 18 secondary schools and 1 special school attended the conferences as well as officers from Wiltshire County Council, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire NHS. Two members of staff and two pupils came to represent each school.

We wanted to share with you some of the information and ideas from the conferences

At the primary conference the children, young people and adults were asked to write anti-bullying rights and responsibilities. Here is a selection:

	Pupils	Teachers	Parents/carers
Rights	<p>The right to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feel wanted and welcome; • be safe on the way to and from school; • learn without being scared; • be ourselves; • be listened to; • be protected; • have fun! 	<p>The right to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be given respect; • be listened to; • feel safe from physical and verbal abuse; • be supported; • work in school without being bullied themselves; • be happy. 	<p>The right to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expect their children are cared for and kept safe; • be informed, listened to and respected; • feel comfortable and able to approach the school; • go into school and know that what the school says will happen, happens.
Responsibilities	<p>The responsibility to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • think before we speak/act to consider if it might hurt the other person; • be friendly and kind; • respect everyone, listen to them when they are speaking; • tell someone if we see bullying; • respect and value everyone; • not bully or frighten anyone else. 	<p>The responsibility to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get involved and help to stop bullying; • celebrate our differences; • not be judgemental; • help children to learn; • listen to parents, carers and children; • keep parents and carers informed; • help children to feel safe. 	<p>The responsibility to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listen to staff; • listen to their children; • comply with the school policies so consistent messages are given to children; • keep children safe and happy; • work in partnership; • get children prepared and ready to learn; • bring up their children in a friendly way.

The students and members of staff at the Anti-Bullying Conference for secondary and special schools were asked where they think bullying occurs. They said:

- In changing rooms. Cloakrooms/toilets. Just off school site.
- On buses, journeys to & from school & waiting for buses.
- At break times/lunchtimes/lesson-changes – areas not monitored.
- In lessons, particularly lessons with substitute teachers.
- Cyberbullying - can happen anywhere. Bullying can happen anywhere as bullying can be subtle.
- Being a mentor sometimes makes you a target for bullies.

Their suggestion was to get a map of the school and then work with children and young people to map where bullying incidents are taking place in school to see if there are 'hot spots' for bullying. Then you can start to focus on the specific areas.

We asked the children and young people and members of staff at all the conferences, what is the main thing that you have learnt about anti-bullying at today's conference. A selection of their comments are:

- "Bullying is everybody's responsibility"
- "Being different is good"
- "To unite teachers and pupils"
- "It's not just the school council but sub-teams can be formed"
- "That bullying can stop you learning"
- "We can all beat bullying as a team"
- "That if you help the bullies then they could change themselves"
- "I have learnt the difference between bullying and teasing"
- "Students should be more involved with anti-bullying projects"
- "Young people's voices need to be heard"
- "The importance of the teacher/pupil relationship in promoting anti-bullying"
- "Very enjoyable, clear message and vision that County-wide all schools want to eradicate bullying"

What's new?

- Wiltshire formed an Anti-Bullying Steering Group in April 2008 that has representation from Wiltshire County Council, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire NHS. The group is committed to anti-bullying and has a clear action plan for the period April 2008 – 2011.
- Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Steering Group has produced 'Guidance in Developing an Anti-Bullying Policy' that is now available on Wisenet.
- Wiltshire is holding a conference on Restorative Justice for secondary schools on March 9th 2009. For more details, please contact Griff Daniels on: griffdaniels@wiltshire.gov.uk
- An overview of Wiltshire's Anti-Bullying Conferences 2008 is being sent out to all schools in March 2009.

