

Workshop 6: Responding to bullying

Bullying scenarios

1. A mother has written to you to complain about bullying. She has decided to remove her daughter from the school as she feels her daughter is no longer safe at school. Her daughter has been friends with another girl at school, now they are no longer friends and her daughter is being excluded from social activities. The mother says that she has been concerned for some time and spoken to the teacher but the bullying has continued and now her daughter feels too scared to go to school.
2. Five parents have written to you saying that they are concerned their children are being bullied and nothing is being done to stop it. One parent says she knows of several other parents who are also worried about bullying at the school but do not know what to do about it. You are surprised – you thought your school didn't have a bullying problem.
3. A parent rang you to say her son is very upset as his classmates have posted silly videos of him on Youtube – and people in his class are making mean comments about them. The videos were part of a school filmmaking project and the parent is concerned about how the classwork was managed and doesn't know what to do.
4. A parent of a son who has a specific learning disability has rung you concerned. She found out from another parent that her son is being teased until he cries. Once he cries the students call him "cry-baby" repeatedly. Her son is becoming more withdrawn at home and spends lunchtimes hiding in the library. She has tried to talk to her son's teacher – but has been told as it happens at lunchtime there is nothing the teacher can do and that she should focus on making her son more resilient.
5. A father has rung you concerned about his son who attends your school. The student has recently 'come out' and is gay and the family are positively supporting him. The dad said that he was concerned about his son's behaviour. In the past, he would be very active in the weekend and the father has seen a reduction in invitations to social occasions. The boy says there is nothing wrong, but he is withdrawing from his friends.
6. A mother rang to say that her daughter has come home saying another boy in her class threw a chair at her. She reports that this is the first time that it has happened, but her daughter says that this boy is always mean and getting into trouble. Her daughter thinks he is a bully and she doesn't want to go back to school the next day.