

GARNOCK ACADEMY

THE GUIDANCE TEAM

(As at August 2007)

ARRAN Ms J Muir

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GARNOCK ACADEMY

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GARNOCK ACADEMY



ANTI-BULLYING

**INFORMATION
FOR
PARENTS**

Why this leaflet?

In Garnock Academy we recognise that some of our young people will suffer from being bullied. This is true of all schools. We also recognise that this, in turn, causes distress to many parents/carers. It is our intention to show that we take the problem seriously, and are available to offer support and help to eliminate the problem.

What is bullying?

There are many ways of defining bullying, but it always involves behaviour which is directed at an individual, and which hurts that individual in some way. It may be:

Verbal - e.g. name-calling, making personal comments.

Social – being ignored or left out of activities.

Material – possessions are damaged or stolen, or extortion takes place.

Mental – when pressure to conform is applied.

Physical – when physical assault takes place.

Parents and Teachers must work together with the children to show that bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

What does the school do?

The anti-bullying message is given out strongly and regularly in a number of ways e.g:

- Year group assemblies
- Register classes
- PSE classes i.e. personal and social education
- By staff who deal with reported instances of bullying
- By class teachers
- By older pupils who offer 'Peer Support' to younger pupils

The school also provides each pupil with a *Guidance Teacher* (see overleaf) whose remit includes supporting those who report that they are being bullied, and helping to re-educate those who engage in bullying.

Should this not be effective in dealing with the situation, Depute Head Teachers may intervene and involve Social Work. Parents may, if necessary, be advised to call the police.

An anti-bullying hotline operates twice per year, when parents are notified and encouraged to phone and report bullying.

What should the pupils do?

Pupils should always report instances of bullying.

Pupils can talk to any member of staff they feel comfortable with.

Pupils need to realise that bullying is a serious problem that must be dealt with. It cannot be ignored.

If a pupil stays silent they are contributing to the problem.

Pupils should ensure that the problem is discussed at Year Group Councils, in PSE, with Guidance staff, with Peer Support leaders and Prefects.

What should parents do?

The most important thing you can encourage your child to do is to share the problem.

Parents should always listen and support a child who wants to talk about bullying.

They should contact school via the child's Guidance Teacher.

It is important to take it seriously, but also to keep the child feeling positive. Try to build your child's self-esteem.

Parents can contact the hotline anonymously.