

Every child has the right to live in a safe and secure environment.

The B-PSA expects the following:

- All adults, children and young people should be alert to signs of bullying;
- Bullying should be discussed openly and regularly.
- Effective and appropriate action must be taken to deal with bullying behaviour.
- A safe and secure environment.

Signs of bullying

The bullied child/young person may:

- Become withdrawn, clingy, moody, aggressive, uncooperative or non-communicative.
- Behave in an immature way, such as tantrums, sulks, or thumb-sucking.
- Have appetite or sleep problems.
- Have difficulty concentrating or show variation in performance.
- Be unable to explain adequately cuts, bruises or aches and pains, they could also complain of illness more frequently.
- Have items of uniform damaged or missing.
- Have forgotten or lost their subscription/tuck money.
- Aggressive to others.

Not all victims of bullying show these outward signs

Group Discussions

- Keep all members informed of developments on bullying issues by posters, leaflets and whiteboards. Young people can be involved in the production of this material.
- Discuss and specify clearly the types of behaviour, which are considered to be unacceptable, ensure young people are involved.
- Encourage co-operative, non-aggressive behaviour.
- Provide support to victims of bullying and those alleged to be the bullies.
- Provide a post box or something similar so that members can voice their concerns anonymously.
- Maintain supervision in 'trouble spots' especially during physical games. Review arrangements for supervision if an area is identified as to somewhere bullying occurs regularly.

Immediate action to be taken.

- Bullied members must be assured of immediate safety and well-being.
- All parties are to be protected and supported while the issues are resolved.
- All incidents should be seen as "alleged" until proven, remember there are two sides to every story.
- Listen and treat members concerns sympathetically and seriously.
- Discuss with all parties as to what actions are to be taken and ensure that all parties understand what is to happen.
- Calmly discuss the situation with the relevant parents.
- Record incidents and results of actions and then advise the section leader and GSM/SiC.
- Maintain contact and work with parents.