

Setting Up a Whole-School Policy on Bullying

Every educator hopes that all students can learn happily and grow healthily in a harmonious environment. Bullying, a common school discipline problem, will damage a school's harmonious atmosphere and hence we should face up to the problem.

Since complicated interpersonal relationships are usually involved in bullying, the immediate intervention measures taken by individual teachers can only stop bullying temporarily. To have sustained effect in preventing school bullying, a whole-school policy on anti-bullying and related measures is required (DFES, 2002; Newman, Horne & Bartolomucci, 2000; Smith, 1999):

1. Work out a clear understanding of the objectives, methods, follow-up strategies and preventive measures in tackling bullying.
2. Help all school personnel understand policies and measures, forge a consensus on the understanding and strengthen close collaboration among them.
3. Apart from tackling bullying behaviour of individual or group of students, teachers can also launch preventive work at class or school levels.
4. Review the policy regularly and systematically to effectively implement it.

Some research studies point out that bullying is closely related to other misbehaviour (Chazan, Laing & Davies, 1994). An effective whole-school policy on anti-bullying can not only stop bullying, but also greatly improve school discipline (Olwells, 1991). In the long run, it will enhance students' self-discipline, self-respect and team spirit and help create a school culture of harmony, order, care and love.

References :

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