

DL25: Holding bullies to account

Does the pupil understand that the school will not allow homophobic bullying to go unchallenged? Do they understand why?



Pupils cannot be expected to learn overnight that homophobic bullying is unacceptable. They need to learn this.

Does the pupil understand the impact their actions have had on the pupil? Do they recognise what they have done?



The pupil must acknowledge the harm they have done, and why the actions are in breach of school policy. They must also, where relevant, understand that their personal views do not justify bullying.

Does the pupil recognise that action needs to be taken to make the bullied pupil feel better? Do they recognise responsibility?



It is crucial that the pupil understands that they have a role to play in making the situation better. They should make suggestions about next steps, and understand that the bullied person may have a view.

Will the pupil make assurances that they will not bully someone again? Do they understand that the incident cannot be repeated?



The pupil must understand that the key to resolving the incident is a commitment not to re-offend. They must appreciate the importance of a general change in his behaviour.

Does the pupil understand what other sanctions will apply if they continue to bully? Are they clear about the escalation process, and how this can ultimately end in suspension or exclusion?



Pupils should not be discouraged from expressing their views about gay people and issues but they should understand the difference between expressing an opinion and bullying.

Are parents aware of the policies that apply to homophobic bullying? Do they understand the consequences of their child's actions?



Parents need to appreciate the severity of homophobic bullying and understand what sanctions will apply if they are to help prevent bullying.