

DL26: Supporting those harmed by bullying

A pupil reports an incident of homophobic bullying. Do you understand the effect that homophobic bullying has on pupils?



Familiarise yourself with this guidance. Don't assume that the pupil is gay, or necessarily wants to talk to you about being gay. Address the incident first and foremost.

Have you provided a private and calm space for the pupil to tell you exactly what has happened?



The pupil needs to feel safe and able to explain the incident/s. They must be able to give you names and times and as much detail as possible. Create the space for this to occur.

Have you asked the pupil how the incident has made them feel? Is the pupil at risk at all? Is there a need to involve other people and agencies?



Not all pupils experience bullying in the same way or are affected in the same way. If the pupil is reporting a period of systematic bullying there may be issues regarding safeguarding that you need to consider.

Has the pupil indicated what they would like to happen and what the next steps should be? Do they understand that the school will take the issue seriously?



If the pupil thinks that there are no consequences as a result of their disclosure, they are unlikely to tell you if any further incidents occur. Establishing next steps is central to gaining confidence.

Have you discussed whether or not the pupil is happy for you to discuss the incident with others? Are there issues around confidentiality? Do you feel able to record the incident in a formal log?



Pupils may not want parents to be informed about incidents of homophobic bullying. Agree steps to tackle the bullying, but be clear to the pupil the situations in which confidentiality cannot be maintained (i.e. safeguarding issues)

Is the pupil gay? Are there other issues relating to safety and support?



If the pupil is gay, they may feel responsible for the bullying and may have other concerns. Provide effective and considerate support.