

LET'S STAMP OUT BULLYING TOGETHER

The Scouting guide to taking action



**BEDFORDSHIRE
SAFEGUARDING TEAM**

SCOUT SUPPORT PACK

Using this pack

'Children have the right to protection from all forms of violence (physical or mental). They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them.'

"The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child"

This pack has been designed by the Bedfordshire Safeguarding Team. It is designed to support groups in dealing with bullying and in helping tackle the issue should it arise.

There are many different materials available to support groups and sections. Links to some sites can be found on our webpage: www.firstluton.co.uk/safeguarding.

The Scout Association's "Let's Stamp Out Bullying Together" campaign also provides some information on some of the issues surrounding Bullying.

It can be obtained by contacting the Information Centre.



SECTION 1

Code of Conduct

All groups should have an agreed Code of Conduct in place. It should be displayed in a prominent place and referred to when needed to remind members of the agreement that they have made to behave in a certain way.

A code of conduct should aim to:

- To improve Members' self confidence
- To promote good behaviour in the Group or section
- To improve the Group environment and make it a place where bullying is less likely to happen
- To improve everyone's awareness of bullying and its consequences
- To make sure everyone is aware of the action that may be taken if bullying takes place.

You could use a number of strategies and methods to create a code of conduct. We would suggest sitting down as a group, possibly working in small teams. There should be a group of leaders who have some input also; this way everyone is seen to be buying into the code.

You may want to ask an adult from another section of the group or a young leader to facilitate this activity so that it is not necessarily seen as adult imposed.

Ask each group to discuss and come up with 2-4 rules that they feel would help the section run more smoothly.



Then bring these ideas together as a group, making one list. It may also be worth asking the young people what they think should happen if these rules are not followed and add this to the code.

Below is an example.

We agree to:

Have FUN!

Treat everyone with respect.

Listen when others are speaking.

Follow instructions given.

Use appropriate language.

Keep phones out of sight and on silent.

Report any bullying to a patrol leader or an adult.

Make sure something is done if someone is not happy.

If these are not followed, these things might happen:

Warning - PL/APL.

Miss 5 minutes of a game.

Miss a whole game.

Warning - Leader.

Speak with parents.

Miss a meeting

If the leaders feel the action is severe then steps 1-4 can be combined and they will go straight to step 5.

I agree to follow the code of conduct and accept the consequences if I do not.

SECTION 2

Exploring Friendship

A good start in preventing bullying issues from arising is to spend some time working with the troop in developing positive relationships and mutual respect for one another.

There are a huge range of team building games and team challenges that are probably already used within troops to do this. To take it further, why not look at the skills or abilities of members of the troop who may not always be fully involved. Try to design some team games where they will have to take the lead.

Recognising skills and abilities

Another idea is to play a game, where the troop, either as a whole group or in patrols, sit in a circle with one member standing in the middle. This person says something that they like or have, for example “I have brown hair”.



Everyone in the circle to whom this applies then has to get up and change seats. The person who is left without a seat then has their turn.

This activity will encourage the scouts to start thinking about the skills and abilities of each other.



Finding the best in another scout

An activity which could be run with the aim of identifying the best qualities in others is a superhero design activity.



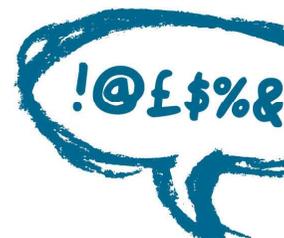
In patrols or small groups, ask the scouts to pair up. If possible, guide the more empathetic scouts to those who may be less empathetic.

The scouts then have to design a superhero based on their partner. They need to think about what qualities or skills their partner has which could be emphasised. The first part of this will be a discussion between the two; some scouts may need support with this. The scouts then need to produce a labelled picture to show what superpowers their hero has.

An extension to this could be to ask the scouts to create a comic strip where their two characters team up to defeat a villain (possibly the villainous scout leader!)



The groups should then feed back to the rest of the troop and, where possible, display their ideas for others to see.



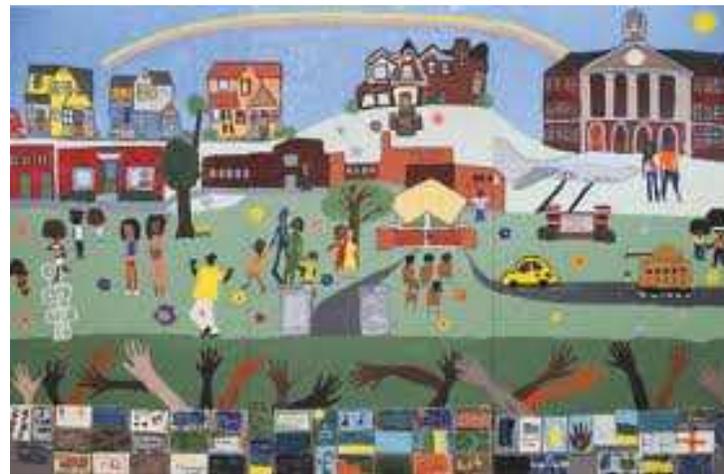
SECTION 3

Working Together

As a group, it may be a good idea to consider what bullying is and how it affects different people. One way of doing this maybe to work as a group to produce a piece of artwork showing different scenes.

To start, ask the troop what bullying means to them, think about different actions that may be considered bullying by different people and how it makes people feel.

Then discuss how you could create a piece of artwork showing different types of bullying. This could be in the form of a mural or a few pictures on large sheets of paper or card. The pictures could be of a scout meeting or playground, showing different activities happening and different types of bullying.



During the activity, ensure that everyone has an agreed role and is involved in creating this work. The artwork could be created in conjunction with a code of conduct.

You could ask the scouts to annotate the artwork with the bullying that is happening and/or what is being said or felt.

At the end of the session, recap the main ideas that have been explored; what is an isn't acceptable and display the work for others to see.



SECTION 4

If there is a problem

Bullying happens everywhere in society and incidents may well happen in groups. If a problem does arise, the most important thing is to acknowledge it and support the scouts to prevent it from developing into a major issue.

It is important that the children feel that they can tell someone, whether it is a leader, patrol leader or someone else. It may be useful to agree a 'safe word' that the scout can say to you if they are unhappy; this way they can bring issues to your attention discreetly.

Try to find out if there is a particular time when incidents occur and, if so, change the routine in that part of the evening.

If you have a code of conduct, this can be followed and all scouts can be reminded of its content. If not, this would be the ideal opportunity to create one!

Be firm but fair with scouts involved. Punishing them will only lead to further resentment. Make it clear that the behaviour is not acceptable.

Keep parents informed if there is an issue and what you are doing to sort it out.



Further Information

There are a number of resources that can be used to support your antibullying work. These include:

- The 'Let's Stamp out Bullying Together' pack, available free from the Scout Information Centre.



- The Bedfordshire Safeguarding team are able to offer support or advice to groups.
(safeguarding.beds.scouts@hotmail.co.uk).

- There are a huge range of activities and resources available to download from 'Programmes -Online' (<https://members.scouts.org.uk/pol/login.do>)

- The Antibullying Network website contains useful information (www.antibullying.net).

- Kidscape (www.kidscape.org.uk)

- NSPCC

- Need2know (www.need2know.co.uk/beatbullying).

- Childline (www.childline.org.uk)



