

Convener, Education, Children and Young People
Committee

The Scottish Parliament

By email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

13 November 2024

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform the Committee that I have today published refreshed anti-bullying guidance for all those working with children and young people. The refreshed guidance, *Respect for All*, brings together and updates our national anti-bullying guidance published in 2017, as well as supplementary guidance on recording and monitoring bullying in schools published in 2019. The refreshed guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836018889>

The refreshed guidance was informed by a working group of stakeholders including COSLA, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, Education Scotland, teaching unions, *respectme*, the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, Glasgow City Council, a parents' representative, and children's organisations. Publication of the guidance was one of the initial priorities within the relationships and behaviour in schools action plan.

The refreshed guidance takes account of developments in policy and practice since 2017, including the thematic inspection of recording and monitoring bullying incidents in schools, which published in February 2023. Updates of particular note include:

- Updating the definition of bullying to simplify language and provide more examples of what is and isn't bullying behaviour.
- Expanded guidance on online bullying, reflecting the nature of many young people's relationships now take place online.
- Clarification of guidance on prejudice-based bullying, taking account of bespoke pieces of work that have been developed around racism, gender-based violence and transgender young people in schools.
- Clarification of expectations on recording and monitoring incidents and the processes that should be followed when an allegation of bullying is reported.

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To assist schools and other organisations to implement the new guidance, an initial package of support has been put in place. This includes:

- An information session, run by Education Scotland and *respectme*, explaining the main changes within the guidance, taking place on 14 November.
- Training sessions for school staff on the Bullying and Equalities Module recording system within SEEMiS, being held on 28 and 29 November.
- A template bullying policy for local authorities, based on the new guidance, available on *respectme*'s website.
- *respectme* continues to offer free e-Learning on anti-bullying in line with Respect for All available at: [Learning Academy | respectme](#)

I hope the committee finds the above information helpful.

JENNY GILRUTH

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