

August 2020



# Positive Behaviour in School



Our schools across Dumfries and Galloway have high expectations and high aspirations for pupils and staff. Like you, we want the best possible future for your child. We know that children do better at school and go on to achieve more in life when families and schools work together. We want to make sure that you, as parents and carers, feel involved in your child's learning, feel welcome and listened to in our schools. We have a shared interest in your child being happy, confident and successful in school. A part of this is to encourage positive behaviour in our schools and communities. Parents as positive role models is key.

### **Positive Behaviour**

Scottish based research shows that schools who have positive relationships throughout the school community and include the voice of children and young people meaningfully in decisions have higher achievement.

It is essential that adults model behaviour which promotes positive relationships and positive behaviours. Therefore, we encourage adults to be positive and supportive creating spaces where children and young people feel safe, secure, listened to, and secure in their ability to discuss sensitive issues.

### **School Policies**

To support this all schools in Dumfries and Galloway are required to develop and implement an anti-bullying policy by June 2020, in order to create a whole school approach in which children and adults work together to create an environment where bullying is never acceptable.

Individual School Policies will reflect Dumfries and Galloway guidance, and also Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People. We have moved from using the term Anti-Bullying policy to Positive Behaviour policy.

Schools will have different ways of putting the principles of anti-bullying into practice to reflect their local school community. They should have an approach which makes it clear that bullying behaviour will not be tolerated. The entire school community: teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents, should be involved and must be committed to this. The policy should be reviewed on a regular basis (identified by the school (Improvement Plan) and provide a basis for all the strategies, procedures and practices related to anti-bullying practice – this will show how children and young people are supported in school.

## Your role in positive behaviour

Your Parent Council plays a key role in representing the views of all parents in the school. When the school is looking at policies and plans like positive behaviour and anti-bullying you can share your views and support this work through your Parent Council. Your school office will be able to tell you who to contact if you do not know.

## Respect for All

The Directorate of Education and Learning Respect for All Guidelines (2018) for Schools incorporates revised national anti-bullying guidelines (Scottish Government 2017) that underpins our Schools Policy. We also acknowledge The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Children's rights are now embedded in Scottish legislation with the promotion and upholding of the rights of children and young people and states that all education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.

Children's voices should be heard, and their wishes respected without discrimination of any kind. AND

The Equality Act 2010 that places a duty on schools to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 put legislation in place to prevent direct or indirect discrimination against persons due to their:

- Age
- Disability
- Sex (Gender)
- Gender reassignment (Transgender)
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation





### **More Information**

Parents are able to access free resources and information from Respectme at the following link:

[respectme.org.uk/about/](https://respectme.org.uk/about/)

Their vision is of a respecting, just, equal and inclusive Scotland in which all children and young people can live free from bullying and harassment and are encouraged to reach their full potential. Our work is driven by a focus on children's rights.

[respectme.org.uk/resources/publications/](https://respectme.org.uk/resources/publications/)

They have produced a number of publications, with information and advice tailored to meet the needs of adults and of children and young people.

For more information on Parental Involvement and Engagement in Dumfries and Galloway please visit: [dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement](https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement)

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