



Don't stick it, stop it!
Campaign action sheet



Don't stick it, stop it! is Mencap's campaign to stop the bullying of children and young people with a learning disability.

The campaign revealed the shocking fact that **8 out of 10 children and young people with a learning disability are bullied**. We also found that:

- children and young people with a learning disability are bullied everywhere they go, including at school, in the park, in the street, on the bus and at youth centres
- bullying did not stop for 4 out of 10 children and young people with a learning disability when they told someone
- 8 out of 10 children and young people with a learning disability are scared to go out because of bullying.

Take action

You can help to change this by campaigning against disablist bullying in your local area. Here are some ideas for things you could do:

- Write to the Head of Children's Services at your local council and ask them what they are doing to stop disablist bullying. Mencap's campaign report 'Bullying wrecks lives' makes recommendations for local authorities and children's trusts, outlining what they should do to tackle disablist bullying. Send them a copy of the report or use the list of recommendations at the back of this sheet.
- Speak to your school, youth group or children's service about disablist bullying. Ask to see their anti-bullying policy and their Disability Equality Scheme (the law says they need to have these). Both of these documents should say how they are tackling disablist bullying. Disabled people should also be involved in producing these documents – ask how to get involved.

- The government has produced guidance on preventing and tackling disablist bullying for schools. Speak to your school to check they are using this. Visit www.mencap.org.uk/dontstickit to get a copy of the guidance.
- Talk to children and young people about *Don't stick it, stop it!* You can find information and video clips to help you at www.mencap.org.uk/youngmencap and www.mencap.org.uk/dontstickit
- Do you know of a good project that is working to stop disablist bullying? If so tell other people in your area about it.
- Many areas have regional and local anti-bullying groups and networks which you could get involved in to make sure they are considering disablist bullying. You can find out about these by contacting your local authority or by contacting your Anti-bullying Alliance Regional Advisor – visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Regional Advisors'.
- Mencap is part of the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign, the campaign to get rights and justice for every disabled child. You can sign up to become a supporter and receive regular updates and actions by visiting www.edcm.org.uk

Further information

- Get *Don't stick it, stop it!* campaign materials at www.mencap.org.uk/dontstickit
- For a resource sheet on dealing with disablist bullying visit www.mencap.org.uk/dontstickit
- For information for children and young people visit www.mencap.org.uk/youngmencap

Appendix 1: Recommendations for local action

Local authorities and children's trusts should support children's services and schools to prevent disablist bullying by:

1. Taking a leading role by providing policies, funding and training to prevent disablist bullying.

Staff in all children's services and schools should receive training so that they understand learning disability, the impact of disablist bullying upon children who use their services and how to take action to address it. Local authorities should promote a culture of 'zero tolerance' of disablist bullying. They should also incorporate their policies on tackling disablist bullying in all service agreements and contracts with private and voluntary providers.

2. Supporting all children's services, youth services and schools to develop robust disability equality schemes linked to their anti-bullying strategies to tackle bullying.

All public bodies are required under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to produce a disability equality scheme. The scheme must show how they will promote disability equality and eliminate harassment. Local authorities should support public bodies and contracted services to produce schemes that include strong measures to prevent and deal with disablist bullying. Anti-bullying strategies should also specifically address disablist bullying and harassment.

3. Providing information and support to disabled children, young people and parents.

Disabled children and young people, and their parents, need good information about disablist bullying, and about the support they can expect from their local authority. Children with a learning disability should be told that they have a right to be safe from bullying. Where a child has experienced disablist bullying, they should also have access to support and counselling to help them to deal with its effects.

4. Ensuring that their children and young people's plan includes actions to prevent and tackle disablist bullying.

The lead member for children's services and director of children's services should consider Mencap's report and review the incidence of bullying of disabled children in their local area. They should then ensure that appropriate actions to prevent and tackle disablist bullying are included in their children and young people's plan.