



Parent Tip Sheet 8. Bullying

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If you were not aware that your child was being bullied or the target of unacceptable behaviour, then perhaps your child's teachers did not know about it either. You should:

- Make an appointment with your child's teacher and make notes of the points you want to discuss before the meeting.
- At the meeting try to stay calm and present information in a way that makes it clear that you and the school are working as partners in trying to fix this problem.
- Recognise that the school will need time to investigate and to talk to teachers and, perhaps, other students.

Step 7: Work with the school to establish a plan for dealing with the current situation and future incidents of bullying or unacceptable behaviour. Before you leave, ask for clarification about the next steps in the plan.

Step 8: If needed, ask for appropriate specialist staff to become involved.

Step 9: Encourage your child to report any further incidents of bullying or unacceptable behaviour to a teacher they trust at the school.

What can I do to reduce bullying and unacceptable behaviour at school?

- Report all incidents of bullying and unacceptable behaviour to the school, not just incidents that happen to your own child.
- Let your child know how much you disapprove of bullying and unacceptable behaviour and why.
- Respect for others should be modelled and encouraged at home.
- Talk to your child about the qualities associated with caring friendships and discourage them from staying in friendships where they are mistreated or not respected.

For more information, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/respect and www.cybersmart.gov.au or www.bullyingnoway.com.au

