

Report

Report to:	Education Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 June 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Review of Anti Bullying Treat Me Well Guidelines
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on a revised Anti Bullying Treat Me Well Guidelines.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress made in developing the Anti Bullying Treat Me Well Guidelines and the engagement with stakeholders be noted.

3. Background

3.1. In November 2017, the Scottish Government published their revised anti bullying guidelines Respect For All. Education Resources' revised guidelines take account of the new government publication.

3.2 It was agreed that a review of the 2011 guidelines was necessary and with updated guidance from *respectme*, Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service, outlining approaches to developing new strategies and policies, a review group was formed to take forward the following:-

- review the sections of the guidelines in line with *respectme*'s guidance on policy development
- identify CPD requirements and opportunities
- re-visit the SEEMiS module for recording and progressing bullying behaviour incidents
- explore links to Health and Wellbeing within Curriculum for Excellence
- identify new resources that support addressing bullying behaviour
- engage parents/carers, young people and staff in the review process

3.3 The revised Treat Me Well Guidelines 2018, attached as Appendix 1, will ensure all educational establishments in South Lanarkshire Council:-

- make every effort to ensure that all young people are free to learn in a safe and secure environment without the fear of bullying
- ensure that there is a common understanding of what bullying is and where it takes place
- develop and maintain a partnership approach among parents, carers, young people and staff which develops school ethos and tackles the issue and impact of bullying

- promote a positive ethos within our educational establishments that fosters development of self-esteem and resilience within our young people
- equip young people with the necessary skills to tackle the behaviour and impact associated with bullying both in our educational establishments and in the world outside
- support those who have been affected by bullying and those who display bullying behaviours
- provide education establishments with a framework for developing anti-bullying strategies and models for improvement in line with *respectme*'s 'Policy Through Practice' and Respect For All – The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People

4. Progress to date

- 4.1 Paramount to the review, has been the necessity to ensure that we understand current concerns and issues facing young people and their families. To that end, at the start of the review process, we gathered information from parents and young people to capture all concerns relating to bullying and, in these final stages, we are continuing communication with parents and young people on our revised guidelines.
- 4.2 The recently developed SEEMiS module which allows for the reporting of bullying behaviour incidents has been piloted by Cathkin High, Machanhill Primary, Larkhall, Lanark Grammar and Carluke High are also involved in the pilot of the module.

Currently, incidents of bullying behaviour are recorded in pastoral notes.

The working group has recognised that there will be training required to fully implement the SEEMiS module into working practice. Feedback of use has been positive since it follows the same process of completing racial incidents. Key to this will be agreement as to who will have responsibility to input and monitor information.

- 4.3 All education establishments are aware of the revisions taking place and are aware of the *RespectMe* Policy through to Practice document. There is already a lot of good practice in educational establishments, including Holy Cross High School's work on anti-bullying being recognised by *RespectMe* and Education Scotland. Their media clip, 'A pupil's journey to overcome bullying' is available for other schools to view at the following web address:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_QTHd5oDMs

The group is eager to ensure that the guidelines are available to establishments as soon as possible, appropriate to ensuring they meet the expectations of all stakeholders.

- 4.4 The Treat Me Well 2018 Guidelines highlight a shift in terminology away from the labelling term 'bully' and the guidelines signpost many documents and agencies to support educational establishments in anti bullying strategies.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 We are currently seeking the views of young people and their input will assist us in finalising the pupils sections of the guidelines. On 31 May 2018, at the South Lanarkshire Parents as Partners Conference, *Respectme* spoke of the work they are doing in schools in terms of anti-bullying, and an opportunity to gather and hear the views of parents on the revised Treat Me Well guidelines was provided.

- 5.2 Education establishments will receive information and training regarding the use of the SEEMiS module. Government guidelines are also being developed.
- 5.3 The Treat Me Well 2018 Guidelines will reflect the views of the parents and young people consultations and be launched and implemented by Autumn 2018.
- 6. Employee Implications**
- 6.1 None
- 7. Financial Implications**
- 7.1 None
- 8. Other Implications**
- 8.1 There are no significant risk implications in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 8.2 There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 9.1 This report updates the anti-bullying guidelines in line with government policy. An impact assessment of the revised guidelines will be conducted.
- 9.2 Consultation has taken place with a range of stakeholders, including the Trades Unions, Parents and Young People.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

29 May 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- SEEMiS module help sheets

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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