

What creates a bullying situation?

- Negative or malicious behaviour
- Repeated over a period of time
- In which there is an imbalance in strength or power between the bully and victim

Why do bullies bully?

They have a marked need to dominate and suppress other students, to assert themselves by means of force and threats, and to get their own way. Some bully because they themselves were bullied and find strength in exerting power over others. Some bullies are popular, others are not. The popularity of the bully lessens at the higher class/grade levels.



For accurate bullying prevention programs and information, please see the following resources:

School Policies on Harassment and Bullying
www.bullypolice.org

Preventing Bullying at Your School
Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX)
www.pfox.org

Preventing Bullying: A Manual for Schools and Communities
U.S. Dept. of Education
Publication No. EQ0118B

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program
www.clemson.edu/olweus

Bullying is Not a Fact of Life
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services,
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Publication No. CMHS-SVP-0052

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Preventing Bullying at your school



Safe Schools for Everyone!



How should schools define bullying?

Bullying defined: Bullying is intentionally exposing another person to verbal or physical harm, or harming or threatening to harm another person's property. The harm is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates a threatening or abusive educational environment for a student.

Bullying policies should provide protection for all students, and not single out certain students. Some bullying policies contain a list of student characteristics, such as "sexual orientation," which labels students and encourages others to do so. Such lists are unnecessary and restrictive because anyone can be bullied for any reason.

Anti-bullying policies and harassment laws do not need to list student characterizations in order to protect all students. Policies and laws should



provide protection for all students without reference to groups or classifications of victims. Every child who is bullied has the special right not to be bullied.

Why is it wrong to use name calling like "gay" or "queer"?

Derogatory name calling is a form of bullying. No one is born "gay." There is no medical test for a "gay gene." There is no scientific or DNA test to determine if an individual is homosexual. Sexual orientation is a matter of self-affirmation and public declaration.

According to the American Psychological Association, scientists don't know exactly what causes homosexual attractions. (2008) The American Psychiatric Association states that there are "no replicated scientific studies supporting any specific biological etiology [cause] for homosexuality." (2000) Rather, the evidence points to an interaction of cognitive and environmental factors. Name calling and stereotyping only add to that negative environment.

"The teasing of other boys who called me derogatory homosexual names contributed to my behavior. I began to believe the lies they were telling me."
--- Brendan

Many people, especially during adolescence, are called "gay" or other names even though they do not have same-sex attractions. Appearance is not a reliable means to know what another person feels. No one should be labelled "gay," "sissy" or "queer"

based on the perception of others. They may begin to believe what others tell them about themselves, which may be completely false labelling and cause gender confusion for the victim.



Moreover, a number of teens who do have same-sex attractions choose not to be identified based on who they are attracted to. Others are working to overcome their unwanted same-sex attractions and should not be called "homophobic," "pretender," or "fake" -- derogatory words often used to describe ex-gays. Such name-calling can lead to depression, fear and feeling unsafe.

"As a questioning teen, I was told that I was 'gay' and my classmates ridiculed me. Later as an adult, I discovered that change is possible. So now I'm called names as an ex-gay. Everyone should be treated with respect regardless of their sexual orientation." --- Charlie

Students who have transitioned out of a homosexual identity, or decide to pursue alternatives to homosexuality, deserve compassion and respect. Their decision should not subject them to discrimination, ridicule, fear or hate.