

I'm not happy with how my child's school is responding to bullying



It can be daunting talking to your child's school if you think your child is being bullied. In some cases, speaking to the school helps and the situation is resolved and children are supported to move on. But sometimes it might feel that the school is not taking bullying seriously or does not respond in the way you had hoped.

For more advice, download our quick read [Talking to your child's school about bullying](https://www.enquire.org.uk/enquire-resources)
www.enquire.org.uk/enquire-resources



Things to remember



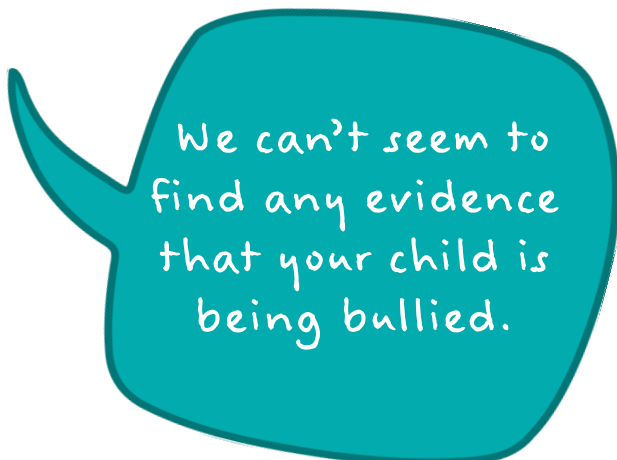
It can take time for a bullying situation to be resolved. It is not always possible for a solution to be found the first time you speak to the school.



Schools may need time to investigate claims of bullying or put in place strategies to prevent or respond to the bullying behaviour. Bullying occurs in complex situations and relationships, which are sometimes difficult to unravel.

We have worked with [respectme](#), Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service, to provide useful tips if you are unhappy with how your child's school has responded to your concerns.

Response from the school:



How to respond:

Share the details of the times and places instances have taken place. Suggest the school monitors the situation carefully over an agreed period of time. Suggest your child informs a teacher when they feel they are being bullied.



Response from the school:

Your child's behaviour can be difficult too/Your child has been involved in these situations too.

How to respond:

A school should not suggest that the bullying is your child's fault. If your child has additional support needs, it's important this is not used as a way to explain or excuse other children's behaviour towards them. Keep the conversation focused on the behaviour experienced, the impact it has had on your child and the solutions possible. It can be helpful to involve your child in exploring what might help the situation.

Response from the school:

We can move your child to another class.

How to respond:

Your school should not suggest changing class as a solution, nor should the school claim that the bullying is not their responsibility to respond to. It can be helpful to refer to the school policy about what should happen when there is an accusation of bullying. Only if your child is content with and prefers the idea of moving class should this be an option, as otherwise your child could wrongly believe they are the problem.

Response from the school:

It's just normal playground/childhood behaviour. It will probably blow over.

How to respond:

Bullying is never acceptable - it is not a normal part of growing up. Focus on the impact the bullying behaviour is having on your child (for example, if they are not sleeping or feeling too anxious to go to school). Ask the school to monitor the situation and if needed put a plan of action in place to address the situation.

If the child that is involved in the bullying behaviour has additional support needs it is still important that the school takes your worries seriously and do not use this as an excuse to avoid dealing with your concerns. It may be that the child in question needs extra support to manage their behaviour or their relationships and friendships.



Next steps



Schools have a duty of care for your child and aim to create a safe learning environment within a culture of respect, fairness, inclusion and equality. If you are unhappy with the way the school has dealt with your concerns, you should make a formal complaint to the head teacher. You can do this by putting your complaint in writing to the school. State clearly that it is a formal complaint.



If you are still not happy with the response from the school you can contact your local authority (the local council) and ask to speak to the Additional Support for Learning Officer and raise your concerns with them. If you remain unhappy with your local authority's response, put your complaint in writing to the authority stating clearly you are formally complaining.



Whilst escalating your complaint can bring a sense of closure for parents unhappy with the school's response, it is not always immediately helpful to a child's wellbeing. Building positive relationships and working on local solutions can have much greater impact for your child and your family, particularly if you have other children who attend the same school, or who may attend in the future.



For further advice about addressing bullying visit the [respectme](http://www.respectme.org.uk) website

www.respectme.org.uk

More information

For advice and information about additional support for learning contact Enquire on 0345 123 2303 or visit our website www.enquire.org.uk

This infographic was written in collaboration with:

ENQUIRE

