



The Venerable Bede Church of England (Aided) Secondary School



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PRO/JRO

6 February 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Anti-Bullying Initiative

As part of our on-going Anti-Bullying Initiative here at the Venerable Bede School, I would like to keep you updated on what we are doing as a school to tackle bullying and our plans for the future. I would also ask if you would be able to complete a very quick questionnaire as we aim for the City Schools Anti Bullying Charter Mark which can be found at the link below:

www.venerablebede.co.uk/published/antibullyingparentcarer

At the start of the Year we asked for volunteers from Year 9 to set up a new 'Bully Buddy' scheme that is now in place. The students have been trained in how to deal with confidential issues, how to mediate between peers and how to give advice on bullying. There is now a rota in place where these students are available at a meeting room in school to chat every break time.

The students also set up a new bullying record form and a drop box outside the School Office for any issues to be flagged up. The Bully Buddy group also now have their badges so that they can be clearly identified to anyone in the school in need of advice. There is also an email group 'bully buddies' should anyone wish to report any bullying via email and there are plans to have a link to this on the school website.

Our work during anti bullying week in November led to a huge number of 'Venerable Bede School Against Bullying' wristbands being sold. The anti-bullying group also held a talk for parents/carers on anti-bullying which was a huge success. They have plans to host further, similar events in the future. The group won the city "Anti-Bullying Week Most Innovative Award" which was presented by the Deputy Mayor in December.

Outside of our school, we have started to deliver anti-bullying workshops to local primary schools and had a successful pilot at St Paul's CE Controlled Primary School in December. There are plans to visit other schools in the coming months.

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We have recently won the National BIG Award (Bullying Intervention Group) which is a fantastic accolade and is excellent recognition for the work of the anti-bullying group. The group took on-board a lot of advice about our school's anti-bullying policy and have consequently re-written it in line with current legislation. We also ran an anti-bullying training session in January for all staff so they are aware of the anti-bullying work being done in and around the school.

Finally, the anti-bullying group have also recently been shortlisted for the Sunderland Young Achievers Award which will take place in March.

Copies of our school anti-bullying policy are available upon request from Mr Roddy, Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator & Head of Year 9. We are determined to ensure every child at the Venerable Bede School feels safe and any comments on our anti-bullying work would be gratefully received.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Roddy
Head of Year 9 & Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator



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