

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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QEGS Academy Sponsors:

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November 2017

For the attention of Parents, Carers, students and staff

National Anti-Bullying Week - 13th to 17th November 2017

The theme for this year's national Anti-Bullying week is "All Different, All Equal". Nationally, this week aims to highlight the impact of bullying on young people in schools, communities, and cyberspace. The Department for Education defines bullying as "Behaviour by an individual or group, repeatedly over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group". Bullying can take many forms including:

- Physical
- Verbal
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Homophobic
- Cyber

Sadly, bullying takes place in all communities. The life of a victim of bullying can be made a misery: it undermines their confidence and self-esteem. Bullying impacts on a victim's attendance and attainment at school and can have a lifelong negative impact on young people's lives.

National Anti-Bullying week has clear aims:

- To encourage young people to acknowledge that everyone is different, unique and should be treated with respect at all times.
- To support young people to use their 'power for good' by understanding the ways in which they are powerful and can put a stop to bullying.
- To encourage individual and collective action to stop bullying and create the best world possible.
- To help parents and carers to support children with issues relating to bullying, working together with schools to stop bullying.
- For schools to create safe environments where students can thrive.

At QEGS, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all members of our community. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable. If bullying does occur, all students should have the confidence to tell someone they trust and to be confident that incidents will be dealt with promptly.

Already this academic year a number of activities have taken place, or are about to take place, with the aim of raising awareness of bullying and strengthening the academy's anti-bullying work. These events/activities include:

- An Anti-Bullying "Theatre in Education" performance for Year 7 students entitled "Hope" with a follow up workshop to discuss the issues raised. This will take place on Wednesday 1st November.
- Assemblies will be based on the theme of anti-bullying.
- All students will have an opportunity to complete a Well-Being Survey which will include questions on bullying (analysis of students' responses will help inform and enhance the academy's anti-bullying work).
- There will be increased opportunities to discuss anti-bullying strategies during Form Time.

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- “Beat Bullying” wristbands, giving an important anti-bullying message, will be available for students to purchase, with all proceeds going to a children’s charity. These wristbands may be worn in the academy.
- The academy has twice hosted an Anti-Bullying Ambassadors’ training day, provided by The Diana Award when students from QEGS trained as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. These Ambassadors visit and peer mentor students during Form time.

For your reference, the academy’s Anti-Bullying Policy can be found on our website in the “School Policies” section. There is also an Anti-Bullying section on the website in the parents ‘dropdown’.

QEGS is committed to working proactively and collaboratively to address the problem of bullying and to ensure that all our students feel safe and happy during their time at QEGS. If you have any concerns about bullying, or any thoughts or ideas as to how the academy might further strengthen its anti-bullying work, please do contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mrs B Humphrey-Lewis
Assistant Headteacher