

The Law

Not all types of racial bullying will require police intervention and it is advised that if the bullying is occurring in school to speak to the school first.

However if you feel that your child has experienced a **racist hate crime** you should contact your local police.

A racist hate crime is any incident committed against a person motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's ethnic background or perceived ethnicity. This can also include damage to property.

Remember that if your child has been seriously physically assaulted you should contact your local police immediately.

If you would like further legal advice on racist hate crimes or bullying please call the following;

Legal Advice:

Children's Law centre 0808 808 5678

NICCY (The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young people) 028 90 311 616



Useful contacts

Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

In an emergency dial 999

In a non-emergency call 0854 600 8000

Equality Commission. 028 90 500 600

Your local Education & Library Board (ELB)

Belfast ELB 028 9056 4080

North Eastern ELB 028 2566 2197

South Eastern ELB 028 9056 6981

Southern ELB 028 3751 2309

Western ELB 028 8241 1458

Your local Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) diocese:

Armagh/Clogher/Dromore. 028 8775 2116

Derry 028 7126 1931

Down & Connor 028 9042 6972

BELONG

64 Main Street, Coalisland,
Co Tyrone, N Ireland, BT71 4NB

www.belongni.org

Tel: 028 8774 1960

Getting help with racial bullying



BELONG is a family support programme dedicated to promoting a sense of Belonging amongst Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) children and young people between 7 – 12 years

www.belongni.org



Racial bullying occurs when a child or young person experiences repeated hostile or offensive behaviour towards them based on the colour of their skin, cultural or religious background, ethnic or perceived ethnic origin.

“My child is being bullied what should I do?”

As a parent knowing that your son or daughter may be experiencing bullying can be extremely worrying, however there are steps you can take to help your child:

1. **Comfort and reassure** your child that they have done nothing wrong. Help them to understand what bullying is, that it's wrong and no one deserves to be bullied;
2. **Accept and listen** to what your child is saying, be patient and allow them plenty of time to talk about what has happened and how they are feeling;
3. **Gather as much information** as possible and write down what has happened including dates, times and witnesses.

Getting help with bullying at school

A school's anti-bullying policy should clearly state the stages in reporting a bullying concern to a school. The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum list three stages that should be followed:

1. **Firstly, report your concerns to the class teacher or to the form tutor or year head if your child attends post-primary school;**
2. **If you are not satisfied with how it has been handled at stage 1, report your concerns to the school Principal;**
3. **If you still feel unhappy with the outcome of stage 2 you should report your concerns to the Board of Governors.**

Remember to take notes and keep copies of any documents from all meetings!

Throughout this process you can seek advice and support from the **Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) on 028 9031 1616**. However don't wait until the last stage—seek advice as early as possible.

Getting help with bullying outside school

If your child is experiencing bullying outside school the following advice may help:

1. As before record all incidents, dates, locations and times etc.;
2. If violence is involved or if the bullying is occurring on the street contact your local police;
3. If it is occurring in a youth or sports club, inform the lead worker who should follow their child protection and/or anti-bullying policy if they have one;
4. If the behaviour involves children from the same school as your child inform the school principal.

Bullying denies children the **right to feel safe and free from harm**. No child should experience bullying inside or outside school.

