

## FYNE TIMES ARTICLE ON CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DISCRIMINATORY BULLYING WORK

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### Tackling Homophobic Bullying in Schools - improve the information being held about it and you improve the opportunities to tackle it effectively.



Since 2012, Caerphilly county borough council has worked with schools to develop better monitoring and better support for pupils and teachers in dealing with homophobic bullying. The full report on what we had done around all forms of discriminatory bullying up until December 2013 can be found on line.

School bullying in all its forms has a deeply negative effect on the pupils who are its victims, but discriminatory bullying

can add an even more personal and hurtful element to the bullying that goes on. But where homophobic, or other forms of discriminatory bullying, are not recorded as such with in the general school bullying figures, the true nature of that bullying can get overlooked, and any support offered may never tackle the root cause.

Developing discriminatory bullying monitoring to cover 10 areas of pupil identity has meant that the Council now has

recorded data on homophobic incidents in schools. Since the trial term in 2012, there is now two full academic years' worth of data to be able to identify patterns, trends and target support at any schools where there seems to be ongoing problems.

There are 97 education establishments that provide monitoring data and the summary of the reported homophobic data across the 7 school terms is shown in the table below.

Summer Term 2012 (pilot term)	Autumn Term 2012	Spring Term 2013	Summer Term 2013	Autumn Term 2013	Spring Term 2014	Summer Term 2014
7	2	1	2	3	5	1

Bullying of this kind is too big an issue for one school, or one governing body, or one council department to tackle alone, it's something that needs all the partners to work on together.

Since the last report, we have begun providing training sessions in schools using the

"Homophobia: Let's Tackle It" educational resource, delivered by Show Racism the Red Card. Update reports on discriminatory bullying are also presented to elected members through the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee, and to the Community Cohesion Forum

as part of the reporting on all hate crime and incidents in the county borough.

We are delighted that in Caerphilly county borough, though there's still so much more to do, we're taking the right steps to tackle homophobia in schools.

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/equalities](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/equalities) or [www.caerffili.gov.uk/cydraddold eb](http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/cydraddold eb)