

WGSANTIBULLYING™

e: wgsb.abc@gmail.com

w: www.wgsabc.co.uk

Minutes of the full Anti-Bullying Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24th February 2009, Period 2, BE1

Minutes

PRESENT: Lee D. Evans (Anti-Bullying Committee Co-ordinator)
Harry Bush (Anti-Bullying Committee Co-ordinator)

Anti-Bullying Committee Representatives:

Chris Elliot	7DW	Chris Crowley	9IPT
Sean Boswell	7KM	Jordan Freemantle	9JHH
Sam Chapman	7KM	Cameron Hibbert-Jones	9IPT
Dylan Grant	7LEM	Brad Taylor	9OA
Ben Alberquerque	7LEM	Thomas Arthur	9SMC
Jonathan Flynn	7BC	Mike Goulding	10WS
Lewis Keen	7BC	Michael Brett	10AB
Ben Hansen	7AD	Andrew Burgess	10MH
Daniel Kowalski	8KLJ	Elliot Hughes	10SF
Isaac Barnes	8GWG	Michael Muise	10PLC
Danny Mortimer	8KC	Daniel Gibbs	11CCC
Henry Noble	8KLJ	Andrew Strong	11JLH
Jonathan Wilkinso	8RR	Ronan Duffy	11MOG
Josh Poole	8AJM	Scott Billingsly	11SPA
Chris Williamson	8AJM	Edward Kenny	11SPA
John Keeble	9JHH	Andrew Rich	11PC
James McIver	9HS		

Staff: Mr D. Hazeldine (Headteacher)
Dr. L. Bromley (Head of Year 7)
Mrs K. Turner (Head of Year 8)
Mrs L. Ahern (Head of Year 10)

Apologies: Mrs S. Walker (Learning Mentor)
Richard Crompton (Head Boy)

I. Ice-breaker

Discussion in groups about what are the types of bullying.

Conclusions:

Bullying occurs in four ways:

- Verbal
- Physical
- Technological
- Indirect (spreading rumours etc.).

Bullying occurs because people of different. These are the motivations of bullying (i.e. racism, homophobia etc).

II. Group activities - "Numbered Heads Together":

Numbered Heads Together: Activity whereby everybody is put into groups of four and each member of the group is allocated a number. The quartets are then asked to discuss an issue, for example, "How do victims of bullying feel?" The facilitator of the activity will then randomly select members of the group by their number of offer contributions. The outcome of this activity is that everybody thinks and contributions to the discussion as they do not know whether they will be called upon. The activity was conducted using two questions.

Question: What is homophobia?

Responses: Literally this means fear of same sex relationships. Other answers included fear/hatred of gays and lesbians, fear generated by ignorance of such relationships.

Question: How are victims of homophobic bullying treated?

Responses: Victims are discriminated against, subjected to rumours, feel talked about, are isolated / avoided / excluded / left out, assumptions and misconceptions are made about them (e.g. they're promiscuous), terms like gay and lesbian are used in a derogatory manner. It was also commented that this type of treatment was particularly damaging when it was not true or it was an area of personal uncertainty. [LAB thought it was interesting that older boys were more engaged and more active contributors than e.g. Y7, which gives an insight into what their key issues are in terms of bullying behaviour.]

This was a lively and productive session which laid a good foundation for this term's AB theme "countering homophobia" which the representatives will present to their forms using materials provided by HB and LDE.

III. Feedback from year group meetings

Poor attendance at Y7 meeting prompted a discussion about how to improve communication, plus a reminder that substitutes should be found if representatives cannot make meetings.

Reps (Y7-Y9) were asked if they felt they needed a PSG representative to support them when talking to their form. The overall response was they would ask if they did not feel confident enough to

manage this themselves. [LAB had noted that some Y7 reps had not contributed much to discussions about homophobia and these might benefit from working with a PSG (or help from HB or LDE) when delivering this half-term's material to their forms.] HB and LDE will brief PSGs to ensure they have the same information about countering homophobia.

The whole ABC felt that it was good to have half-termly themes, supported by information sheets, because it helped focus their discussions with their forms. They also felt that changing the themes every few weeks ensured that there was "something for everyone" and kept pupils interested.

Ideas suggested for promoting the ABC themes:

- Talks in Head of Year assemblies
- Publish the theme on the Pupil Bulletin
- Have accompanying posters around the school (use of Anti-Bullying noticeboards?)
- Use the school web site
- Promoting the theme on the desktop of school computers
- Informing parents

Suggestions for improving communication of events to representatives:

- Using personal emails
- Announcing everything on the AB website – www.wgsabc.co.uk
- Still keep using notes in registers as well
- Could have their own notice board, e.g. using part of current AB notice boards

IV. AOB

- Year 8 representatives requested more focus on combating name calling so it was decided this will be one of the future half-termly themes.
- Year 7 representatives suggested there should be a competition per half-term, e.g. poetry, posters, drama, presentation on live-wire.
- Year 9 representatives suggested a system for checking when you're worried you've upset someone and a room where pupils can go to seek reconciliation.

V. Conclusion of meeting

LDE and HB thanked everybody for attending the meeting and commented on the fantastic attendance.

Provisional date for next meeting = Wednesday 23rd April, with year group meetings w/c 23rd March.