

Submission
No 16

**INQUIRY INTO BULLYING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

Submission about school bullying
Teacher intervention

My son is now 40 years of age and it is a long time ago since these events occurred, I have however often thought that teachers should intervene and take action where they can do so, they are the adults on the scene of the bullying, the parents are not there but are the unwilling victims of their children's desperation to fit in and be liked by their fellow pupils so if the adults at the scene do nothing, they themselves are as guilty of misconduct as are the perpetrators of the bullying.

Here then is an account of what happened to my son and why I think teachers can and should do more to help.

My son started school at catholic school.

The bullying started in third grade, first name calling, pinching hitting, why I don't know

In 5th grade the bullying escalated considerably, was always crying and having nightmares and would come into my room and want to sleep with me, he would say he was frightened and didn't want to go to school. I went several times to respective class teachers trying to bring the bullying to their attention, I also went to the Principal Sister but not one teacher would listen to me, because much of the taunting was coming from the 6th grade I also went and spoke to their teacher

But nothing was done about it

I also went to the Parish priest Father, with no results.

It is interesting that the nightmares stopt when we bought a dog which slept in his room at night a room he shared with his older brother who was attending the Christian Brothers College.

By the end of 5th grade was being called poofter all the time when I asked him why he said "I don't know I do not know what a poofter is"

At the end of 5th grade I went to see Brother the principal of the Christian Brother college for boys, Brother assured me if came to the C.B.C he would do his best to stop any bullying, because it was his policy to give every boy a fair go and he would look after

spent 6th grade at the C.B.C and enjoyed a trip away with the class to
, he was still nervous but Brother kept his word and looked
after him and his school work improved.

Unfortunately the Christian Brothers and the Dominican sisters girls school
amalgamated to form one school and in year 7 the bullying
started again

The two principals were Sister--- and Brother---, Brother left to study
for the priesthood.

was coming home daily with bruises where he was punched on the
arms.

THE TEACHERS WOULD NOT HELP

In desperation one day after had phoned me and said that six boys
were pushing him and he told a teacher and she told him to go and stick up
for himself, I was angry and after seeing Sister--- told her there was a lack
of Christianity at the school I took home with me and rang the parents
of the boys concerned I also rang the bishop of. who said he was
disappointed to learn about it. The Parents were concerned, and

was upset and crying all the time and the school didn't contact us at
all, said he would not go back to and as all this
happened a week before the end of the first term I went to see the Deputy
Headmaster at High School who assured
me that he had no problems with bullying at because he
himself kept a firm rein on discipline and if had any problems to see
him and he would sort it out.

There was a small problem when first started at High, it
was a prank and did sort it out promptly and the girl
concerned apologised and there were no further problems.

Although was very nervous at first, by year nine he had make friends
and did quite well in the H.S. C. and went on to do a teachers training course
at but he has not used his teaching skills but has worked for Docs
and other firms, he has problems and is not well I feel some of his health
problems have been the result of bullying at early school years.

IN MY SUBMISSION ABOUT SCHOOL BULLIES

I see the problem stems from lack of interest by the teachers, they after all are
the adults on the spot not the parents.

The Problem of bullying must be addressed by teachers and it must be
addressed at teachers meeting and action taken.

In both instances where Brother and were willing to
stand firm and take action if required there was not a problem.

Therefore I see the problem of bullying in schools can be stopt by teacher intervention and this must be done promptly at the time of the incident not some time in the future.

I believe that had the teacher in 3rd grade had taken some action the bullying would not have escalated to the degree it did.

I also am aware that any school is as only as good as the person in charge and so that person the principal or deputy must have a very firm policy in place and a plan of action to stop bullying.

Yours sincerely.

P.S I have no interest in "getting back at schools or people, i.e teachers", I hope my thoughts may be of some use to the committee investigating this problem.