

# The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

## meet Nick Gibb MP



NICK Gibb MP, the schools reform minister, met with Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABA) from all over the country to discuss bullying. The young people in attendance have all received, or are working towards, the Diana Award. This is a scheme that celebrates the efforts of young people who are changing the world for the better. As the schools reform minister, it is Mr Gibb's job to improve the way that UK schools operate. Here's what Mr Gibb had to say in response to the ABA questions.



■ **Why isn't there a helpline for bullied young people?**

There is ChildLine, but I suppose that's more for other things. The key objective is to create a culture within a school where you feel safe, rather than a national helpline.

■ **Why isn't bullying illegal?**

We don't want a ten-year-old to become involved in the criminal justice system – we want them to apologise.

■ **Why doesn't the Government record bullying statistics?**

Every incident would have to be written down, even if you accidentally push someone in the corridor!

■ **Do you think politicians are good role models?**

Prime Minister's Question Time is rowdy and 'yahoo-y'. I accept it doesn't present us as good role models. The Speaker is always telling us off!

■ **What punishments should bullies get?**

Detention, apologising, doing extra work around school.

■ **Who needs more help – the bullies or bullied?**

I think the bullied, we need to make sure they get help.

■ **There are 24,372 schools in England. How do we get ABA into all of them?**

How many are we in now?

■ **Around 2,000.**

What do you think I should be doing?

■ **Adverts on TV and in newspapers such as First News. ABA going into local schools. More funding for training! Should schools do more to reduce cyberbullying?**

Yes! We've done quite a lot of things to educate young people about how to behave on the internet. The internet is new and we're still learning how to behave on it.

## DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET

**EVERY child should be able to enjoy life at school. If you're a victim of bullying, don't keep it to yourself.**

Speak to someone you can trust, such as your parents, a teacher or your friends. Is bullying a problem that exists at your school? If so, why not talk to a teacher about the ABA programme? You can help to create a happy and safe school environment for you and your friends.



## Taking action

So what creative schemes are ABA schools using to tackle bullies?

- Levenshulme High School, Manchester: a pledge against bullying is said before assembly, uniting the school.
- Drew Primary School, Newham: smile and compliment day.
- St Angela's Ursuline School, Newham: a photo booth to promote anti-bullying through positive slogans.
- Saddleworth School, Oldham: concerns box to anonymously report bullying.

## Young person's view

"The best way to tackle bullying is to find out what motivates the bullies and act on that. We need to share the anti-bullying campaign – stop it being a secret and give students a voice!" Libby and Emily, 13, Saddleworth School.

## Get involved!

To learn more about the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Programme and the Diana Award, go to [www.antibullyingpro.com](http://www.antibullyingpro.com).

