

# Working with your child's school

## What you can do

Your child's school is your first point of contact about bullying and concerns about any issue relating to school is best resolved where it occurs – at the school.

It's very important to see the school as your partner in your child's educational journey and to establish a positive relationship with the leaders, teachers and other staff.

Schools need to know if you have any concerns about your child's education. Teaching and learning work best when parents and schools work together to solve any problems.

Some parents will have had unfortunate and regrettable experiences of bullying in their own school life. Try not to let these get in the way of working collaboratively with your child's teachers to solve any problems.

Schools have very clear responsibilities to prevent and manage bullying and to create safe and supportive learning environments for your children. Each school will have a bullying policy which you are entitled to review. If you can't find it on the school website ask for a copy.

### **Before you approach your child's teacher or school, be sure to make an appointment.**

- Be clear about the issues you want to discuss.
- Focus on the facts and the things that affect your child.
- Remember you may not have all the facts relating to the matter you want to raise.
- Think about how the matter could be resolved.
- Be informed by checking the Education Department's and the school's policies and guidelines.
- Be realistic about what the school can do.

Every State or Territory Education Department has an escalation process. If you don't get satisfaction from the school contact your State's Education Department or check their website and see what the next steps are.