

From the Office of
John Penrose MP for Weston Super Mare



Press release

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Penrose calls for anti-bullying training for teachers

Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose has tabled a motion in Parliament calling on the Government to provide intensive anti-bullying training for all new teachers as part of their teacher training, and for existing teachers through intensive short programmes.

Mr Penrose, who is a governor of Weston College, said: "Next week (w/b 21st November) is national anti-bullying week. I was keen to support the work of local anti-bullying organisation 'Actionwork' and their message that our teachers and lecturers need specialist training to cope with the problems of bullying.

"Young people suffer many thousands of incidents of bullying every week in our schools and colleges. Thankfully extreme violence in bullying is still relatively rare in the UK, although the stabbing last week of 15 year old student Natasha Jackman is a disturbing symptom of a growing epidemic."

Mr Penrose continued: "In the run up to national anti-bullying week, I wanted to put forward a sensible suggestion, endorsed by young people, to help address the problem.

"The issue was raised at this year's annual 'I Power I' national anti-bullying conference for young people, organised by Weston-based *Actionwork*. The young people there unanimously voted in favour of providing teachers with the specialist training and support needed to deal effectively with bullying and misbehaviour. I think their voice deserves to be heard in Westminster. After all, who better for politicians to listen to, than those most directly affected by the bullying problem?"

Andy Hickson of Actionwork and Conference Director for the 'I Power I' anti-bullying conference said: "Bullying is a major problem in schools all over the country and teachers need our support and recognition that it is not easy to deal with. Training on not only how to help bullied pupils, but also ways of dealing directly with bullying pupils, needs to be incorporated into basic training for teachers"

Ends/.

Notes to Editors:

The Full wording of the Early Day Motion presented by Mr Penrose is:

That this House recognises the good work of young people at the "I Power I" national anti-bullying conference for young people; further recognises the efforts of all members of the Anti-Bullying

Alliance and other UK anti-bullying organisations in addressing the problems of bullying; notes that young people in the United Kingdom suffer many thousands of incidents of bullying every week; and believes that the government should provide intensive anti-bullying training for all new teachers as part of their teacher training and to existing teachers through intensive short programmes.

For more information please contact

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