Empowering student leaders

With their experience and social status within the student body, student leaders can be positive role models for younger students, inspire connected student action, and have a powerful and constructive impact on the school climate.

The following are just a few of the ways you can provide opportunities for your student leaders to participate in activities to develop their skills and knowledge. This document is written primarily for Year 10 to 12 students, but some ideas could be adapted for Year 6 students in primary schools.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) each year provides a great opportunity for your senior students to develop their leadership skills in your school.

1. **Running a school NDA event**

   Senior students can take an organising role for your school’s NDA assembly, community meeting, display, poster-making activities, etc. Suggest these pages to students to get them started:

   - Check out the Photo Gallery to see what other schools have done [https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/PhotoGallery](https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/PhotoGallery)
   - Get inspiration for a whole-school activity, like making a mural or creating a wall of students’ posters using the great resources for NDA [https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/ForSchools/Pages/School-materials-to-download.aspx](https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/NationalDay/ForSchools/Pages/School-materials-to-download.aspx)

2. **Songs about bullying**

   Senior students can participate in the following activity as a group. Download the Class activity: Songs about bullying (classroom activities document for teachers) and select a song to sing or play as a group. Suggest that students plan a performance, dance or video based on the song and showcase it with the whole school. They might like to write new lyrics to an old song, or choose a different song they know (ensure they understand the guidelines for what makes a helpful anti-bullying song, outlined in the document). Maybe they can write, perform their own song and teach it to younger students.
3 Mentoring younger students in dealing with bullying

Bullying. No Way! has two short animations to help students from 9 to 13 years old learn what to do if they are bullied, or if they see bullying happening:

- Bullying is NEVER OK! video
- Our secret superpower video.

For each video, teaching materials are also available at:

- Bullying is NEVER OK! classroom discussion starter
- Our special superpower classroom discussion starter.

Activity 2 in each of the discussion starters involves students exploring and rehearsing the strategies. Extensive information is provided in the Teacher answer guide for Activity 2 about what teachers can say and what students need to be aware of for each strategy.

Senior students can play a unique role in mentoring younger students through participating in class or small group discussions, and by demonstrating and practising the strategies suggested in the videos. It is recommended that a teacher supervises this mentoring activity.

Involvement in this activity allows senior students to share their own experience, and to contribute ideas and examples of what to say to respond that will be suitable within the student culture in that school.

Caution: It is not recommended that senior students take on staff roles such as having students report bullying to them, or being responsible for dealing with bullying between younger students. This remains the role of school staff.

4 Bullying prevention project

The Guide for senior students provides information for students to plan and run a school bullying prevention project in your school.

5 Perspectives on bullying

Perspectives on bullying involves senior students (Years 10 to 12) reflecting on what they have learned through their school experience or doing a survey of other students related to the creation of a safe and supportive school community.

Students then create a presentation or brief report on the findings, and can share these findings with other members of the school community. Teacher notes and student survey outline and worksheets are available to download.