

# Anti-bully mark given to school

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A Bispham school have won the first bronze charter mark for anti-bullying, after teaming up on a campaign with HeadStart Blackpool.

Montgomery Academy was approached by National Lottery-funded HeadStart to pilot #BlackpoolBeatingBullying, which was created by youngsters who voted on the top issues they felt needed to be tackled.

The All Hallows Road school was chosen because some of the children who recognised bullying as an issue go there, and because it was "approachable and open".

Headteacher Liz Cumming said: "Through the development of the charter mark, our anti-bullying ambassadors have worked as a team to collectively come up with a list of action points for the school to move forward and develop.

"This had been through the production of a pupil and parent guide to anti-bullying, improving the information on our website, and presenting numerous assemblies throughout the year."

The charter mark had helped to positively change the culture of the school, and it continues to draft further ideas, Mrs Cumming said.

The charter mark is the first to be co-produced be-



Pupils at Montgomery Academy taking part (Pictures: David Hurst)

tween HeadStart Blackpool and youngsters in the town, with the ultimate aim of making sure all resort schools are equipped with the tools and knowledge to stop bullying.

The charter mark has three tiers – bronze, silver and gold – and incorporates factors like having the anti-bullying policy on show in both an accessible and easy to read place.

HeadStart said: "The campaign has enabled young people and adults to come together and estab-

lish a practical, achievable and purposeful solution to how we address bullying in our high schools in Blackpool. The impact on the individuals involved in developments has been fascinating, to see them grow in confidence and agency, with real determination to bring about change.

"Liz Cumming and Montgomery Academy have been fantastic partners in rolling out the charter mark. There's a real sense of unity in tackling this issue and the charter mark has proven the ideal vehicle to do so."

Due to the campaign's success, other Blackpool schools have now approached HeadStart to take part.

