

Have you been treated degrading at school?



Are you treated badly by your classmates or by your teacher? If so, you might be the victim of offensive treatment. It might be a matter of someone sending nasty e-mails or SMS text messages, that you have been repeatedly teased for something or that you are not allowed to be with the others. This treatment naturally also includes violence such as punches, kicks, pushing and threats.

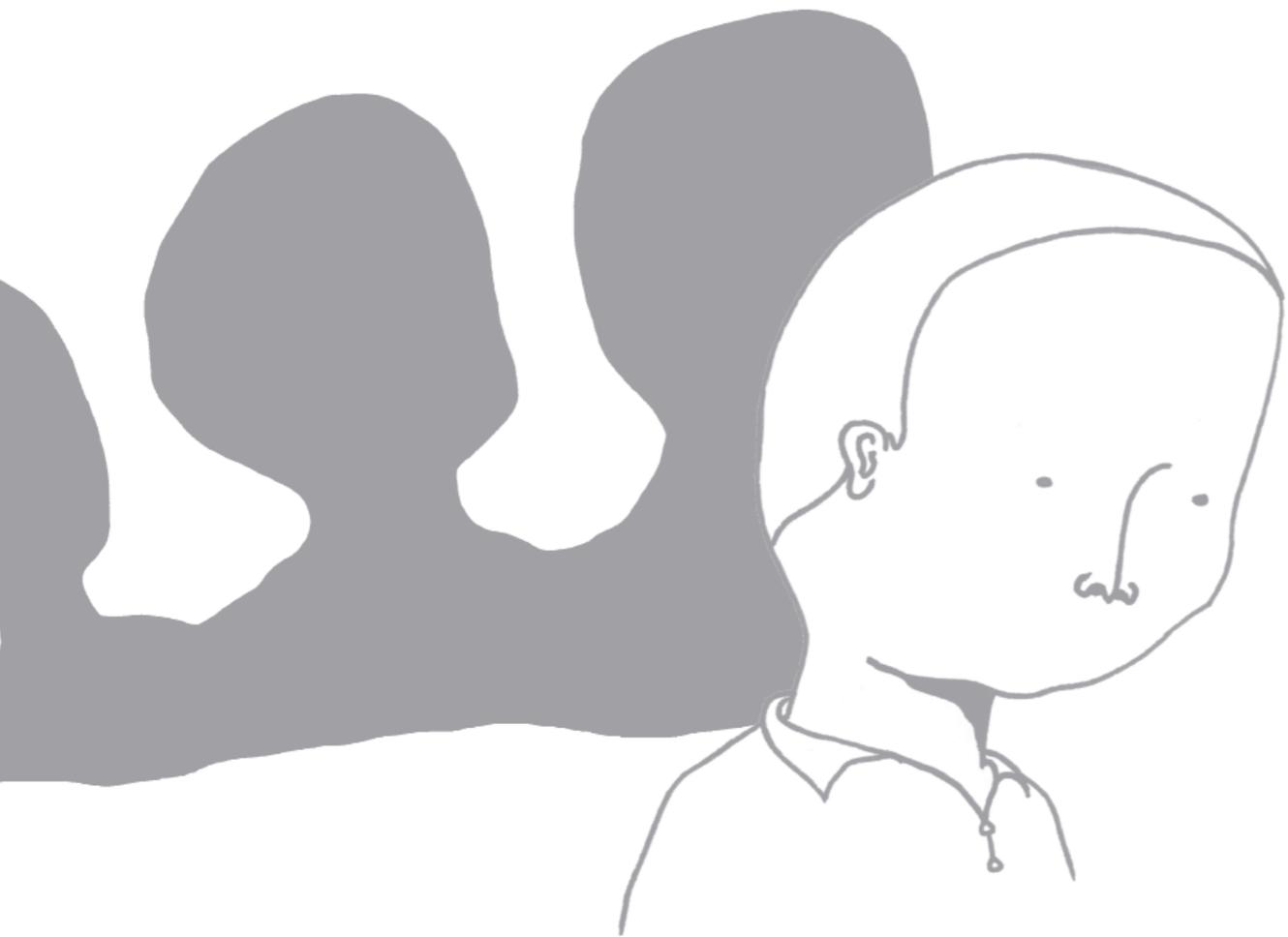
If you have been subjected to degrading treatment, and the school has not done enough to stop it, you can file a complaint to the BEO, www.stolinspektionen.se/beo



beo

Barn- och elevombudet

The BED is the Child and School Student Representative.



If you experience offensive treatment from other students

You should tell an adult at the school if someone treats you offensively. The school is obliged to take you seriously. As soon as the school is informed that you have been subjected to offensive treatment, the school must ensure that it does not happen again.

You do not need to have been subjected on several occasions; rather, the school must help you on the very first occasion. If you do not receive help from the school, you can turn to the Child and School Student Representative, BEO.



If you experience offensive treatment from an adult at the school

It is absolutely prohibited for adults at preschools and schools to subject students to offensive treatment; examples include disparaging comments, threats or the use of physical violence. You can report having been subjected to offensive treatment from an adult at the school to the BEO.



What the law says

There are two laws meant to protect you from offensive treatment, discrimination and harassment: **The Education Act and the Discrimination Act.**

According to the Education Act (Ch. 14 a), all preschools and schools must work to prevent children and students from being subjected to offensive treatment. Staff members also have an obligation to act. This means that as soon as the school is made aware that a student feels that he or she has been subjected to offensive treatment, the school must investigate what has happened and do everything in its power to ensure it does not happen again. All preschools and schools

must also have plans in place to combat offensive treatment. It is of vital importance that children and students take part in working on these plans, since they are the ones who are most aware of what the situation at school is.

The BEO together with the Swedish Schools Inspectorate and the Equality Ombudsman, DO, is responsible for ensuring that schools and pre-schools adhere to these laws.

Filing a complaint to the BEO

Anyone who attends, for example, preschool, school or adult education can turn to the BEO.

1. If you are subjected to offensive treatment at school, you should turn to your teacher and headmaster at the school. They must take your feelings of having been subjected to offensive treatment seriously and help you.
2. If you still do not receive help, you can turn to the BEO. We will investigate what has happened and what the school can do to help you. This is sometimes done by meeting with you, your parents and the responsible parties at the school.

3. If the school has not fulfilled its obligations to do what it should have to stop the offensive treatment, we can demand that damages be paid. This means that the owner of the school, such as the municipality, must pay you a sum of money. Payment of damages is a form of compensation if you have been subjected to offensive treatment, as well as a way to encourage schools to improve their efforts to combat offensive treatment.
4. If the school does not pay the damages, we can help you sue them in a court of law. In that case, the court will decide if the school has acted wrongly and is thus liable to pay damages.

The Child and School Student Representative is a part of the Swedish Schools Inspectorate. The Swedish Schools Inspectorate inspects schools to ensure that they adhere to the laws in place. Their task involves ensuring quality of instruction and that schools are able to offer children and students a secure environment.

www.skolinspektionen.se/beo

