

THROUGH THEIR EYES

Knife Crime

TEACHERS' NOTES



POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

THROUGH THEIR EYES

SLIDE 5

When school goes well

While this session is about knife Crime, it explores the pressures, rivalries, and bullying, that go on in schools. You may well hear comments made or see signs that a student has personal experiences/issues. Please try to find a time and place when you can check out how the student is feeling and make your Designated Safeguarding Lead aware of your concerns.

you make friends,
talk,
have fun,
support each other

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What do you think is good about school?

you make friends,
talk,
have fun,
support each other

you are taught,
make progress,
pass exams,
get future choices

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SLIDE 7

School can be a source of anxiety and pressure

Rather than asking the group to name these sources of anxiety and pressure, click in each and make brief comments. The point being that the pressures are named for the group. You can then ask them which they would pick as the three most significant pressures.

get up on time
get out of the house with all your stuff
wear the uniform
attend every day
deal with incidents walking to school/on the bus
be on time
judge the mood of the group at registration
avoid being picked out in assembly
be in all your timetabled lessons
have the books/equipment you need
move promptly between lessons
do the work that is set
please the teachers you like
stay out of trouble with the teachers you don't like
hand in your homework
deal with being in trouble and not make things worse
keep your phone out of sight
find friends/be a friend
cope with fallings out/arguments
have good company at break/lunch-time
avoid troublesome peers
exams

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Bullying

What is bullying?

The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online.

Repetitive means? It keeps happening

Intentional means? It is done deliberately

Think of examples of an imbalance of power

Age: Someone older bullying younger people

Size: The person is taller or bigger, than the victim

Power: The bully is seen as more popular, influential, physically stronger

Understanding: when a bully takes advantage of a person's neediness/disability

Bullying behaviours include:

- The victim is called names, teased, is subjected to banter, laughed at, ridiculed
- Physically hurting someone: hitting, slapping, kicking, or pushing
- Creating mental fear: threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- Expressing constant criticism or spreading rumours about a person
- Seeking ways to socially/emotionally isolate someone to make them feel powerless
- Taking to use or hide or destroy the possessions of others
- Creating situations to undermine: tripping them up, nudging their table, sneering
- Sending/forwarding derogatory messages by text or online
- Posting negative and hurtful comments or photos of a victim on social media

The victim is never to blame

Introduce the group to the concept of 'victim blaming'. This is when the hurt that has been caused to a victim is excused/minimised by implying the victim deserved it, on account of who they are or what they said or did. This is never acceptable. Ask the group for examples, such as: asking someone who has been hit, what they did to provoke the person hurt them.

Tips for professionals:

- Understand the four elements of bullying: intentional, hurtful, repetitive, involves a power imbalance.
- 'Banter' is not acceptable. Just because you think something is banter or a joke, doesn't mean other people will.
- All offensive, threatening, violent/abusive language and behaviour, is always unacceptable.
- Negative language or behaviour is unacceptable in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/belief, sex (gender), sexual orientation.
- Language and behaviour can have different meanings, in different contexts. If you're unsure, ask what was meant.
- Just because someone uses certain language to refer to themselves, it doesn't necessarily mean it is acceptable, nor does it make it okay for you to use it.
- People won't always feel confident to speak up if they are offended by something. They might even go along with it, so as not to draw attention to themselves.
- Third parties might be offended, even if they're not part of your conversation.

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There is a report of a stabbing incident

What has happened?

a 14 year old male pupil has been stabbed

the incident was in school

his attacker has run away

the boy is breathing but unconscious

The Police are already at the school, what is their role?

A young person has been stabbed. He is the victim of a crime.
They investigate crime to apprehend criminals and keep us all safe.

Why do the police need to be first on the scene?

help the victim,
identify who the attacker is, if known,
keep bystanders away,
collect evidence,
interview witnesses,
find the culprit,
make an arrest,
prevent anyone else getting hurt.

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What is a Paramedic?

This is an opportunity for the group to start at looking at what has happened through the eyes/role of an emergency responder.

A Paramedic is a qualified and experienced person who will often be the first person to go to a seriously ill/injured person. They work in a range of emergency and non-emergency situations, using their judgement and skills to quickly assess a patient's condition and make life-saving decisions. They are trained to resuscitate and stabilise patients using techniques, equipment, and drugs. In an emergency, they use high-tech equipment such as defibrillators, spinal and traction splints, as well as administering oxygen and drugs.

They are usually based at an ambulance station. They work shifts, so there is always a paramedic on call. They often work alongside the police and fire and rescue services. They also support relatives, friends, and members of the public, who are with the person needing their help.

Paramedics also work closely with other healthcare teams in the community, such as GPs, occupational therapists, mental health teams, diabetes specialists, and doctors and nurses in hospital emergency departments.

The Paramedics are driving to the school, what is their role?

The call handler tells them about the injury.
He does this so they are prepared to help the boy as quickly as possible,
getting out of their car with the equipment they need.

Why does the call handler tell them that the offender has run away and the police are there?

Paramedics can't go to the scene if the offender is still there, they may be hurt.
They are being reassured that the offender has gone and the Police are there.
They know they can now focus solely on helping the boy.

They are already focussing in the car on:

the site of the wound
the need to stop the bleeding
being ready to help him with his breathing
getting him secure enough to be moved to hospital
saving his life

Who else might need their help?

The person who first went to the boy's aid
Any shocked witnesses of the stabbing
If the parent/carer has arrived to be with the boy

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The details of the incident

Phillip was the boy who was stabbed, he has lost a lot of blood.

There were two deep stab wounds to his stomach, piercing his liver and other organs, he is in intensive care.

There was a fight outside school at 4pm, after staff on duty had come back in school. Staff learned that something had happened, when a few pupils were shouting and crying.

Phillip was lying on the pavement and bleeding, his breathing was shallow, his face was white and he was shivering.

Mr Henderson's first aid kit was no use, he used a towel to put pressure on the wound, then the Paramedics took over.

Staff brought the remaining pupils into school. Mrs Smith contacted their parents to come and collect them

The Police took Phillip's details and went to see his foster carer.

Ryan stayed with Phillip, he saw what happened. Phillip was being called names and pushed, he was trying to walk away.

Harry tried to grab his bag, other boys pushed and kicked Phillip, he held onto his bag.

Phillip pulled a knife out of his bag. Harry and Phillip were wrestling

It suddenly went quiet, Phillip fell down and was bleeding

Harry and his friends ran away.

Who is to blame? Divide the group into five smaller groups, and get each group to consider the part played by one of: bullies, Phillip, Harry, the onlookers, the school.

Bullies: they were insulting and pushing Phillip, when he didn't respond, it got worse.

Phillip: he had a knife in his bag, he took it out, he told Harry he would stab him if he didn't call off his mates, Harry didn't do that. They carried on wrestling.

Harry: was part of the bullying, he tried to take Phillip's bag, he could have stopped before Phillip got out the knife. It seems like he may have stabbed Phillip and then run away, leaving him bleeding on the ground.

The on-lookers: gathered round to watch, chanted 'fight...fight', no-one went to call staff or ring 999.

The school: how much did they know about the bullying of Phillip, there may have been a build-up to this incident, the teachers on duty came in before all the pupils had left the school.

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Knife Crime

It is illegal to:

- Sell a knife to anyone under 18 years, unless it is a knife with a folding blade that is three inches long or less.
 - Carry any sharp or bladed instrument in a public place without good reason - except for a folding pocket - knife (that has a blade that is less than 7.62 cm or 3 inches).
 - A lock knife is NOT a folding pocket knife and therefore it is illegal to carry these knives regardless of the length of the blade.
 - Carry, buy or sell, any banned knife.
 - Use any knife in a threatening way, even it is a legal knife.
 - If you carry a knife in a vehicle, you could also be prosecuted for the offence.
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Are the Police allowed to stop and search people?

The Police can stop and search any person, vehicle, and anything in or on the vehicle looking for certain items. However, before they stop and search someone, the Police Officer carrying out the search, must provide their identity and station, and explain the grounds of the search before it starts. They must have reasonable grounds for suspecting that they will find:

- Stolen goods
 - An offensive weapon or an item with a blade or point
 - Any article made or adapted for use in certain offences, such as a burglary or theft
 - Items that could damage or destroy property; e.g. spray paint cans.
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Who is most likely to carry a knife?

Statistics show that young people between 15-19 years, are the most likely to be in possession of a knife.

Evidence shows that people who carry knives, are more likely to be stabbed themselves, and on occasions their own knife has been grabbed and used against them in an attack.

Phillip has committed a crime. What does the group think now about who is to blame?

Ask the group to discuss whether this is Phillip's fault. Ideas such as:

- He could have reported the bullying before it built-up.
- If he hadn't brought a knife into school, and they still fought, any injuries would be less severe.
- He threatened Harry with the knife, saying he would stab him.

Is this victim blaming? What does the group think?

Faced with someone with a knife:

Say nothing, run away, hide, and report it when you are safe.

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Ryan speaks out



The Police advise teachers/parents to look out for the warning signs that young people may be carrying a knife. They urge adults to talk to young people about the very real dangers in carrying a knife. When you deliver this slide be aware of these warning signs and be prepared to share any concerns you have with your Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Police. Your school will have a Police School Support Officer.

If you hear talk about a pupil carrying a knife, you must tell the Police straightaway.

Warning signs:

- Has the young person withdrawn from the family and/or from school?
- Is the school reporting worrying changes in behaviour, academic achievement or attendance?
- Has the young person lost interest in positive activities, such as sports clubs?
- Do s/he stay out unusually late without giving a reason and is vague about her/his whereabouts?
- Has s/he stopped seeing old friends and started hanging out with a new group?
- Are they secretive about the contents of their bag?
- Are they defensive if you ask what is in their possession or if they're hiding anything?
- Has their attitude changed about carrying knives/weapons? For example, justifying it by saying lots of people carry them or people carry them for self-defence?
- Have any items gone missing from the kitchen, tool box or garage, or school workshops?
- Have you found a weapon hidden amongst their possessions?

Asked if Phillip did anything to annoy or provoke the group:

"You can't call it a fight. A fight is between two people who hate each other. This was a group ganging up on one person who they hate, for no reason that I know of..."

Asked why they hated Phillip:

"They pick on people...they are bullies.....everyone knows that....Phillip has been targeted recently.....He is not like them...maybe he had just had enough of it all"

Asked what he saw of the fight:

" Phillip took out the knife and threatened to stab Harry, if he didn't stop. They fought over the knife..... Harry stabbed Phillip. I am sure of it.....I didn't see another knife."

Ryan adds a piece of information:

"I know that Harry brags about bringing a knife into school. He threatens to skank people. It is scary."

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What should you do, if you know someone is carrying a knife?

If you believe there is an immediate threat to life or if you have just seen someone carrying a knife, **dial 999** and report it to the police.

If you suspect anyone of carrying a knife or an offensive weapon in a public place, you should tell someone, this could be a:

- Police Officer, Police Community Support Officer, or Community Warden
- If you are at school, tell a member of school staff or a parent/carer
- If you want to remain anonymous ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

This may be difficult for you, but it is important you do so, we must help the Police to take knives off the streets and out of schools.

Knives can be handed in anonymously into the front offices at a Police Station, the Police will dispose of them.

Responding to bullying?

Try to avoid the bully when you are alone:

Try and avoid the bully if you can, stay away from places where bullying happens. Don't give them an opportunity to get you alone. Don't hide away or bunk off school. If you can, take a different route to school or class. If you can, walk to school with a parent or a friend.

Try to be brave and don't react to the bully:

Try and be brave, don't show the bully you are scared or upset. You might get angry or want to fight back, but this can make things worse. Bullies are looking for a reaction from you, so getting upset or angry will let the bully know they are hurting you, and make it more likely that they will bully you again in the future.

Tell someone you trust, don't ever be afraid to ask for help:

It can be scary if the bully has told you that they will get you if you say anything. This is how they control you, so they can bully you again. They will not want to get into trouble. It's very important that you tell an adult about what is happening, this is not grassing or telling tales. This is being an Upstander. Bullying is wrong and needs to be stopped before someone gets hurt. Tell your parents/carers, or a teacher, what has happened and how you are feeling.

Keep a diary or record the bullying:

Sometimes you may think adults don't understand, they may not listen carefully, or be quick to say something like "It will be OK, don't worry about it" or "Just stay away from them." If you are worried your teacher won't take it seriously or even make things worse by saying something to the bully and make everything worse, plan how to get a trusted adult to listen. Keeping a diary or a recording of the bullying is very powerful and makes it real for adults. It proves that this is happening and gives the adult all the evidence they need to make it stop.

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Be Cyber-Savvy:

Don't ever give your name, age, address or contact details to ANYONE online without your parents' permission. If you are being bullied online, delete or block that person. You can ask an adult for help with this, but you probably know more about computers than they do! Criminal Charges may be brought under The Harassment Act and other legislation that is there to protect you. Talk to your family and to those who you trust. If you ever come across anything on the internet that makes you feel uncomfortable, no matter where it is, please report it.

Don't tell people where you live or which school you go to. NEVER arrange to meet them. If a stranger asks you to meet them, see this as a warning sign and tell an adult, a responsible person/someone you trust. If you call a helpline, the volunteer might ask you some basic questions, but that is OK provided you telephoned the helpline and they did not phone you.

Do not give any confidential information to someone who calls you. If you are worried or scared, hang up and talk to a trusted adult. Tell your friends if you are worried about anything. Also, change your log-in details regularly and change your passwords. The only people you should share your password details with are your parent/carers.