

BULLYING HURTS

Fones is waiting for the school bus with a group of students, including **Toof**. **Spotty** arrives with a boombox and is happily listening to music. **Fones** and another student begin to bully **Spotty**. They throw the boombox away, and take a video of **Spotty** upset, which they post online. Many of the students watch it and laugh, while others look on uncomfortably. **Spotty** clearly feels unhappy and lonely.

MESSAGE

Many people can be involved in bullying – those who witness it (bystanders), and those who are bullied. Bullying is serious and causes pain, shame and loneliness. It can have a lasting impact for everyone involved.

Narrated Message

Bullying is serious.

The intention to hurt someone is an act of aggression.

Bullying of any kind causes pain and can have a lasting effect on everyone involved.

ISSUES

- Being bullied can cause pain and suffering
- Those who are bullied can feel lonely and isolated
- Bystanders are involved in many ways, sometimes actively and oftentimes reluctantly
- Bystanders can feel anguish and anxiety
- Those who are bullied, as well as bystanders, may be afraid to challenge the bullying, or to get help
- Cyber-bullying using cell phones and the Internet is an important reality defined by the Accepting Schools Act (Bill 13) as bullying

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Parents

1. What is happening in this vignette?
2. Who are the different parties involved in the bullying?
3. What do the different parties seem to be feeling? What might be the negative effects of this incident on the people involved?
4. Some of the students seem concerned, but don't seem to be doing anything. What is happening?
5. How is cyber-bullying different from other forms of bullying?
6. Do you have any experiences you would like to share about bullying?

School Staff

1. What is happening in this vignette? Who are the different parties involved?
2. What might be the negative effects of this incident on the people involved? On the school or classroom climate?
3. Do you see much bullying in your classroom or at school? Are you aware of such incidents?
4. Do students approach you about bullying incidents? What actions would you take?
5. What strategies could you use to help students feel comfortable getting help?
6. What are some of the unique challenges with cyber-bullying? Have you addressed cyber-bullying specifically at your school?
7. What can the staff at your school do to foster a positive, caring and respectful learning environment?



RESOURCES

- Safe@School (OTF and COPA)
www.safeatschool.ca
- Promoting a Positive School Climate: a Resource for Schools
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate.html
- Shaping a Culture of Respect in our Schools
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/publications.html
- Making Ontario's Schools Safer: What Parents Need to Know
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/publications.html
- Checkpoint for Parents: Towards a Non-violent School - Good Behaviour to Enhance Learning
www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforteachers/classroomresources/checkpointsforparents_wda48939.html
- Safe Schools are Effective Schools: a Resource for Developing Safe and Supportive Environments
www.glhv.org.au/report/safe-schools-are-effective-schools

SCHOOL STAFF

- Safe@School (OTF and COPA)
www.safeatschool.ca
- Promoting a Positive and Inclusive School Climate: Whole-School Approach
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/feb2012/Issue1Feb2012.pdf
- Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario: Supporting Students with Special Education Needs through Progressive Discipline, Kindergarten-Grade 12.
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/Caring_Safe_School.pdf
- Equity and Inclusive Education Resource Kit for Ontario High Schools
http://mygsa.ca/sites/default/files/resources/MyGSA_ON_Resource_Kit-01_Introduction-proof.pdf

SCHOOL STAFF

- Creating an Inclusive School: Indicators of Success
www.gnb.ca/0000/incl-e.asp
- Keeping our Kids Safe at School: Reporting and Responding to Incidents
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/safeKit.html
- Safe Schools are Everyone's Responsibility
www.flipthedescriptnow.org/educators