

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident, or patterns of incidents, of coercive, controlling or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This includes psychological, physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse.

CAN WE HELP ORGANISE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES WITH YOU?

We are always looking out for new opportunities and would love to assist schools in putting together activities, exercises, information days and fundraisers to raise awareness of domestic abuse and possibly some funds for the charity as well! Please contact Eleanor at the below address for more information.

If you would like to book a Healthy Relationships Session, or would like to find out any more information about the work we do, please contact:

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domestic abuse stops here

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOPS

**Discussing Domestic
Abuse in a Primary Class**

The Dash Charity

The Dash Charity is a local charity that supports women, men and children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse. We can support those who need crisis accommodation due to domestic abuse. Alongside this, our team of specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) support high risk clients in managing their safety and the legal process, and our outreach team supports medium risk clients. We run a helpline and take referrals from local authorities and safeguarding organisations.

Year 5– Friendships and Secrets

This workshop introduces children to the concept of domestic abuse in a sensitive and open way. Children are asked to read the stories of three secretive children, and to think about what they might be hiding, and why.

Year 6– Gender and Stereotypes

This very fun workshop makes the classroom into a courtroom! Designed to help children develop their critical thinking skills, small groups will argue over statements involvement gender anger and jobs, to help them think twice before agreeing with stereotypes!

What we Provide

For schools and other youth organisations, our Schools Prevention Worker can put together talks, presentations, workshops and assemblies. While our secondary school presentations deal with the specifics of domestic abuse, our work with primary schools (from Year 1 upwards) is centred around respect, 'secrets' and why violence is unacceptable in an argument.

These workshops are activity based, and are designed to allow children to discuss their own views on gendered expectations, safety and the importance of friendships. The workshops for Year 5 and above include an introduction to what domestic abuse is, how it can affect friends and families and how to get help if they ever need it. Each session ends with 10 minute where children can talk to a Dash worker about the content.

Why we are Needed

Domestic abuse is pervasive within society, and has been shown to have a severe impact on children and their current and future relationships. Research shows that :

- ◇ the age group most at risk from domestic abuse is 16-24 years old.
- ◇ 20% of school children are witnessing domestic abuse at home- this equates to 6 in a class of 30.
- ◇ In the UK, more than 130,000 children live in houses that are at a high risk of domestic violence.
- ◇ Of the children that witness domestic abuse, 62% are also directly harmed by it.

Prevention work in domestic abuse has become more important given the young age of the most likely victims. Educating children about respect and abuse is crucial to preventing the cycle of abuse continuing. While it is a difficult subject to cover with younger children, many will already be witnessing domestic abuse at home; it is crucial that help reaches their families as soon as possible.

Year 4– Friendships and Arguments

This workshop asks children:

- To identify what 'fighting' is
- To create a story where an argument, and then a fight occurs
- To solve the argument they created, in a way where no one gets hurt

This workshop is also available to other primary years who have not had relationship education before.