

Choices

Developing decision-making skills in an increasingly complex world



A programme for
Year 6 & 7 pupils and their teachers



About this Programme

Using creative approaches, this innovative new programme designed by Artswork in partnership with BearFace Theatre and funded by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Violence Reduction Unit will support young people and their teachers to explore some of the challenges they might face growing up, empowering them to make healthy decisions. The programme will specifically examine the risks and impact of knife crime, the dangers of exploitation and other violence and will support them to find their own solutions, enabling them to build positive, healthy relationships and respond appropriately to potentially risky or challenging situations throughout their lives.

The programme will be running from September 2023 – July 2025 and will support schools in their statutory duty to deliver RSHE which enables informed decision making, particularly when faced with risks, challenges and complex situations (DfE, 2021).

This project is funded by Hampshire and Isle of Wight VRU and therefore the whole programme is free to schools.



How will it work?

Inset training

A day long training session for school staff, exploring flexible creative approaches to learning that will support young people to develop their cognitive, critical and problem-solving skills. The session will also build confidence to adapt and develop programme materials to meet the needs of pupils.

Training will be focused on 3 specific techniques, each of which can be adapted and used in other curriculum areas:

- Philosophy for young people: Encouraging pupils to see the world in new ways, question their assumptions and develop their own points of view
- Enquiry based learning: Encouraging pupils to pose questions, research and create solutions
- Mantle of the expert: A drama-based approach putting young people into the role of the “expert”. Pupils work alongside their teachers and other professionals to become social scientists exploring how to address violence and knife crime in society.

Pupil workshops

Each pupil will receive 2 workshops using Forum Theatre techniques which are designed to allow pupils to “rehearse for change”. The first workshop will look at the causes and impact of violence from both victim and perpetrator perspectives. This workshop will use verbatim testimony from offenders within the criminal justice system which they have shared with us as a way of supporting future generations to make different decisions. The second workshop will build on this and look at healthy relationships and choices.

Forum Theatre, originally developed by Augusto Boal, encourages active participation by the audience as they try different strategies to solve the challenges presented, “rehearsing” for change and stimulating debate and shared understanding. This technique is used for exploration and learning so will not require any performance elements outside the session.

How will it work?

Legacy training

A half-day or twilight session for school staff which introduces a legacy pack which supports ongoing learning within school settings. This will include an introduction to using forum theatre within a teaching environment and opportunities for staff to reflect on the process together, sharing with each other what they have learnt.

Time involved

- One full day Inset training which can be delivered for the whole school or for relevant teachers from a group of linked schools
- 2 x 1 hour workshops per pupil group (up to 45 students per workshop)
- One half-day Inset training which can be delivered as a twilight session

How to get involved

This programme is FREE to schools.

Recognising that primary to secondary transition can be a time of vulnerability for young people we are interested in hearing from schools who want to coordinate hubs that bring together year 6 pupils from feeder primaries with their peers in year 7 for the programme. We can also deliver this to individual schools.

To find out more information and to book in delivery dates contact Annabel Cook via annabelcook@artswork.org.uk