

## Growing Against Violence

### **Parent Session**

This session seeks to educate and inform parents about gangs, gang culture and the GAV programme. Parents are given an overview of our evidence-based curriculum and receive an academic and policing perspective into serious youth violence including the “push” and “pull” factors that account for gang associations. Gang recruitment processes and the roles and risks to girls involved in gang culture are identified. Parents are made aware of the warning signs of gang membership and advised on appropriate interventions. The session celebrates the fact that the vast majority of young people lead positive lives but also promotes active parental engagement, boundary setting and the importance of collaboration and communication between families, schools, and communities to end serious youth violence.

### **So Social Media (Year 5)**

This lesson explores how digital technology has changed the way people communicate and why phones/tablets are so integral to young people’s lives. The session considers the use of social media by Primary School students and the relationship they have with it, to help inform their online decision-making. Students examine the dangers of communicating with people who pretend to be someone else online and look at the importance of online privacy and the dangers of over-sharing information about themselves. We highlight the concept of exposing people’s online and look at how others may use knowledge of people’s ‘offline activity’ to coerce and threaten through fear of exposure. Sensitive issues relating to grooming, cyber bullying, gaming and inappropriate images are examined. Young people are made aware of the law surrounding these issues and are empowered to report abuse if they encounter it.

### **Friends vs. Friendly (Year 6)**

This interactive workshop teaches refusal skills and builds awareness of negative peer pressure. Emphasis is placed on the differences between being “friends” and being “friendly”. We look at how certain “friends”, especially those in negative peer groups like gangs, are nothing of the sort and will only attract trouble. We demonstrate how older peers groom and coerce young people. Our aim is to help young people read the signs of gang membership, recognise how gangs recruit and understand the manipulative and coercive nature of gangs and gang members. This dynamic session highlights what gangs are really about and how they exploit young people and put them and their families at risk. We examine why gangs are not conventional friendship groups and challenge the “no snitching culture” empowering students to reject this. We address students’ anxiety about moving up to secondary school, and provide practical advice and resources about staying safe, avoiding bullying and resources for seeking help if needed.