

## Anti-bullying assemblies Take that back!

**Participants** : Readers 2 Mimers 4

**Props**: clutter for stage (*see below*)

**Resources**: visual images of friendships: OHP/power point

Music

Suggestion for a longer assembly: arrangements could be made for a member of staff or parent to be invited to come and recount their experience of being bullied, or of having been a bully. The students could prepare questions to ask them.

*The words have been allocated to readers but if preferred, could be adapted and spoken by teacher/leader. A selection of easy-to-carry items clutter the stage e.g. boxes, sports gear, chairs, cleaning equipment. Lively music is played as Readers 1 & 2 enter to the sides, stepping over or walking round the obstacles.*

**Reader 1** Before we start our assembly, we need a few volunteers to do some clearing up. The place isn't looking very nice.

*Volunteers are selected and they follow the instructions to remove them out of the hall/room.*

**Reader 2** All these need taking back.

*While this is happening, the readers continue.*

**Readers 1** It might be a bit of a nuisance, but we don't want to start with a mess. Luckily it's not too much trouble to take these things back.

**Reader 2** Those PE shoes were a bit smelly, so I'm glad they've been taken back.

**Reader 1** Too true! Actually, I've got some aerosol spray - that should help.

*Reader 1 produces a can and sprays all around (The action can be mimed if there are concerns about contents.)*

**Reader 2** Hey! Don't do that! Some people are allergic to aerosol!

**Reader 1** Oh, right – sorry! I'll just get a volunteer.

**Reader 2** What for?

**Reader 1** To take it back.

**Reader 2** What are you talking about? It's too late – the stuff is out. You can't take it back.

**Reader 1** *looking around the empty stage* Well they took all the other stuff back.

**Reader 2** Ok. Any volunteers to put the spray back in the can? No, don't answer that!

*They don't wait for or encourage a response.*

**Reader 1** *if anyone responds* No thanks – we know it can't be done.

**Reader 2** And no, we're not mad in case that's what you're thinking.

**Reader 1** We had a good reason for all of this.

**Reader 2** We wanted to show that although there are a lot of things you take back, things that may not be very nice,

**Reader 1** Like smelly PE shoes,

**Reader 2** there are other things you can't take back – like aerosol.

**Reader 1** But it's not aerosol we want to talk about today. It's about other things you can't take back.

**Reader 2** Like this...

*During the following dialogue, Mimer 1 enters slowly and remains in the centre, alone. A few seconds later, Mimers 2-4 enter and start pointing, sniggering and circling round Mimer 1. If preferred, the words allocated to the readers could instead be spoken by the mimers themselves. The unpleasant names could be substituted for others.*

**Reader 1** Sad loser!

**Reader 2** Who's a pathetic wimp then?

**Reader 1** We might have to toughen you up a bit.

**Reader 2** We know where you live.

**Reader 1** We've got your mobile number.

**Reader 2** We know your email address.

**Reader 1** Ever heard of cyber bullies?

**Reader 2** Well, you soon will have.

*Mimers 2-4 exit laughing. Mimer 1 remains in place, head down and looking miserable.*

**Reader 1** Hateful words.

**Reader 2** You can't take them back.

**Reader** Frightening taunts.

**Reader 1** You can't take them back.

**Reader 2** Ugly threats.

**Reader 1** You can't take them back.

**Reader 2** Painful actions.

**Reader 1** You can't take them back.

**Reader 2** The gossip,  
the rumours,  
the betrayal of trust,  
the unkindness,  
the teasing,  
the being unjust.  
When the insults are sprayed,  
And the bullies think they've won,  
The hurt is out there,  
And the damage is done.

**Reader 1** When the air is polluted  
with hatred and flak  
It spreads poisonous pain  
And you can't take it back.

*Music plays as Mimers 2-4 re-enter slowly, heads down. They stand still during the next lines, in a circle as before, but no longer showing aggression.*

**Reader 2** We started with a can of aerosol. We used it to make our point.

**Reader 1** So let's use it again.

**Reader 2** No! Don't!

**Reader 1** I don't mean I'm going to spray it again. I mean let's use it to show how we can end on a positive note.

**Reader 2** I think you need to explain.

**Reader 1** Well, in time the spray from the aerosol disappears. The same thing happens when we spread pain to others. If we stop, the pain will go away.

**Reader 2** And if we go a step further and be friends with people instead of hurting them, we *can* take back the hurt.

*Music plays as Mimers 2-4 slowly show signs of friendship with Mimer 1. As before, the words allocated to the readers could be spoken by the mimers themselves.*

**Reader 1** I'm sorry.

**Reader 2** We didn't mean to hurt you.

**Readers 1&2** We take it all back.

*They all exit smiling. Music continues for a few moments as visual images of happy friendship groups are shown on the screen.*