



IDEAS: HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT



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Kate uses the film BULLY with particular students to address aggression and violence issues. She believes that, whilst there needs to be consequences for students who bully, a truly preventative approach requires that these students need to be taught empathy. She has used the film for this purpose on an ad-hoc basis with small groups of students mainly in years 8 & 9.

Kate uses particular scenes and issues in the film as the basis for discussion with students who have been involved in bullying, and through raising questions with the students, allows them to find their own answers around the effect of bullying. In her experience, not one student to whom she has shown “BULLY” has failed to be overwhelmed with compassion for the young people who start in the documentary. She has found that the emotions that are triggered in the students who watch the film then become a useful springboard into reflective and honest discussions, genuine remorse about their own behaviour and a commitment to being more sensitive to the feelings of students they previously cared little about.

In some cases, Kate mediates letters and conversations between the students who have been involved, after which Kate continues to monitor the students’ wellbeing. Kate has found that this has been a successful strategy for supporting students to be more empathic and sensitive to the impact of their words and behaviour on others. This strategy works within the context of the broader school commitment to teaching all students Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills and the use of School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) as the framework for student behaviour management.