

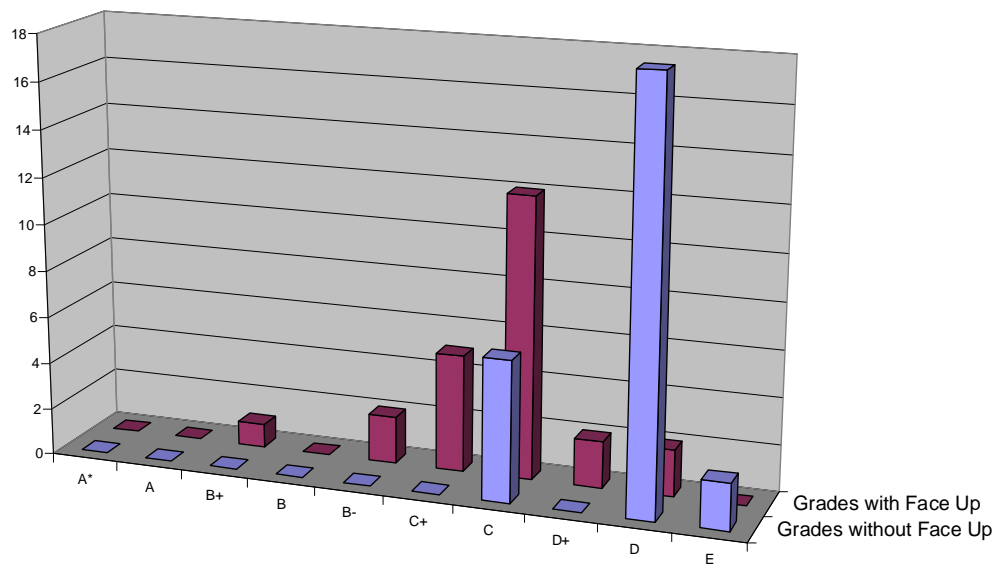
Domestic violence education project is delivering outstanding results

In order to embed anti-violence education in schools across Liverpool the 'It's not OK!' suite of resources are mapped to the National Curriculum. Preliminary evaluation shows that the latest of these resources 'Face Up' is delivering outstanding results in Liverpool schools.

During last term a pilot project was delivered in West Derby School and the young people who took part were positively affected by the project in dramatic ways. The number of young people achieving grade C or above in their KS3 English coursework increased from 23% to 83%. The graph below sets out the results from West Derby in some detail

KS 3 coursework grades

Number of Pupils



Why is this data important?

Our aim is to enable every school in Liverpool to tackle domestic violence however the government's system of league tables forces them to focus more and more on grades achieved by their pupils in English, maths and science. This data proves that 'Face Up' will help a school improve those grades. It means that a school doesn't have to take its eye off the league tables in order to tackle domestic violence. In fact by tackling domestic violence using 'Face Up' they can actually improve their league position.

Is curriculum based approach is cost effective?

The evaluation evidence collected so far shows how a school can deliver antiviolence education without having to alter the existing school timetable. Because 'Face Up' is designed to be delivered in ordinary Key Stage 3 English lessons it does not require a school to organise new or additional activities to tackle domestic violence.

Alison Doherty from Community Safety in Liverpool says of 'Face Up', "It's helping to improve educational grades whilst getting young people to think about the issues involved in domestic violence."

This approach is also sustainable; once a teacher has started to use 'Face Up' they can use the learning resource over and over again with a number of different classes, year after year.

Does 'Face Up' work in a youth centre as well as a school?

Rachel Strahan, a youth worker at the Walton Youth Project, introduced 'Face Up' to a group of ten young women at the Street Club, based in Alsop High School.

"You could tell that it engaged them straight away. They liked the look of it, they liked what they could do with it, they liked the fact they could do it on their own, they could talk about it together."

"The film clips kept them engaged and they watched them till the end, but then they could try something different such as they could go to the Aunt Emma problem page or they could move around to other features."

"They also liked the fact that it was almost a kind of cartoony feel to it as well as the real characters played by real young people acting out the roles."

"We then came together in our group or our circle at the end, and talked about the resource about what they gained and what they'd learnt from it, and their comments were really positive."

"It was a very natural reaction they were having to it and they were able to respond to it in a really positive way."

Where do we go next?

The process of actively engaging schools and youth centres in this domestic violence prevention programme continues. Shorefields, Calderstones and St Julies Schools in Liverpool have all agreed to run further pilot projects this term, while Ariel Trust continues to collect evaluation data. This data is being shared with teachers across the city in order to build a delivery network which will reach in to all our schools.

In addition this data is being used to attract new investment to the city. Because 'Face Up' is proven within the context of the National Curriculum there is no reason why it can't be used to deliver antiviolence education in schools across the nation. The 'It's not OK!' steering group is working toward this end in order to sustain this important project in Liverpool.