

Case Study

St Lukes School

School No: 635



Scary Guy - Anti-bullying Day: November 2007



St Lukes (secondary school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties) doesn't have a bullying problem as such and we already have lots of positive and constructive strategies to

deal with incidents when they do occur. However we have been concerned for some time about the 'bad' words pupils use against each other. Often the pupils do not even know what these words mean or they drop off the tongue without intending to be so insulting or to cause such upset to others. Despite our efforts this name calling culture between pupils in school continued.

After watching a teachers TV programme titled 'Inspirations' involving an American 20 stone, heavily tattooed chap called the Scary Guy I was convinced his approach fitted with our School ethos of acceptance of all, respect for all and a focus against violence and prejudice. His appearance gives him 'street cred' beyond what I believe is possible as a teacher!

Scary has been featured in over 1,700 newspaper and magazine articles, 700 radio interviews and hundreds of television shows worldwide. He has featured in two Teachers' TV programmes in the UK this past year, one for secondary and the other for primary schools. But would his methods and approach be effective in our Special School setting?

I offered him the challenge of working with our Special School pupils.

He accepted the challenge and we were fortunate in attracting some sponsorship from Hertfordshire Anti Bullying Initiative to enable this pilot to happen. And so we had the privilege of him working with pupils and staff on our Anti Bullying Day in November. He gave four subtly different presentations to different age groups of pupils.

His inspirational approach and message however was the same:

- We need to teach people how to be nicer to each other and to stop judging people by the way they look.
- With the younger children he challenged them to open a door for another person every day for at least a week; to ask permission before touching anyone and not to call a person a name other than their own.
- He challenged the KS4 pupils not to call anyone a name or say anything negative about anyone for seven days: the 7 day and 7 night challenge.
- In the afternoon he worked with some individuals and small pupil groups on a variety of activities before giving a presentation to staff on how we can support each other and the pupils in taking the work forward.








Did he make an impression? Was it effective? Most definitely!!

His approach is unique and uncompromising as he teaches pupils how to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Here are some comments from staff

Scary's approach on the subject was different in the fact that to me it was more about being



Date:	May 2009
Subject Coverage:	PSHE/Anti-bullying/Behaviour
Key Stages:	KS3 & 14-19
Author:	John Warwick (Deputy Head – St Lukes School) John.warwick@stlukes.herts.sch.uk
Print version, Downloads & Links:	Printable Case Study:  case_scaryguy_st_lukes.doc (Word2003/39kb)
School Web Site:	 www.stlukes.herts.sch.uk More information about Scary Guy:  Scary comes to Herfordshire  www.thescaryguy.com Teachers TV:  Scary does Primary video  Secondary video  Scary does Parents video For information regarding bookings Email: GaryLee@thescaryguy.com

nice to others more than it was about bullying. What he talked about was something that we all know about (and try to teach our children) but probably very rarely put into practice ourselves. It was good to be reminded of how we should conduct ourselves and it certainly made me think. (staff member)

In the few weeks since Scary Guy's visit there has been a marked improvement in the behaviour and attitude of some pupils who in the past have given us much cause for concern. In my family form group I can see two pupils in particular making efforts to be nicer to others. These two have had a reputation for teasing and 'bad mouthing'. I know they are not perfect and they might find it difficult at times to keep showing their 'nice' side but Scary Guy has left us all with the inspiration and determination to keep trying to be kind to each other and help each other achieve this goal. (Teacher)

Scary Guy came and left a big impression on both the pupils and the staff. The message he left us with was simple yet very challenging. Who would have thought that simple things like opening the door for others; not saying negative things and always calling others by their names (not name calling) would have such an effect. Scary Guy, you are a breath of fresh air; we hope you will be back for a follow-up session (Head of Upper School)

Scary was very inspiring. My first thought when I saw him was 'I want to look at him, examine his face, his piercings, his tattoos. But would he think I was staring at him? Making assumptions about him?' During his talks with the pupils, he answered these questions by putting everyone at ease. He seemed to expect people to be curious, to be either shocked or offended, but then he explained that it was ok to look different, that it didn't make you a bad person. His speech was calm and low. He explained that you shouldn't call people names and you do not have to accept another person's words. You should think of other people, open doors for them. I was very impressed by him. (School Manager)



....and copies of some pupil email messages sent to Scary. I was impressed he answered everyone!

Scary, Thank you for coming to St Luke's School to help stop bullying. I have learnt a lot about bullying and how to be a better person. You can come again I hope. (Year 7 pupil)

Hi Scary. You're the greatest guy I ever saw - you look scary buy you're really cool. I'm not scared. You're just a great guy. (Year 8 pupil)

Hi Scary how are you? Did you like coming to St Luke's school? I really like your tattoo's all over your body. All the kids like the tattoos on your body Scary. You are really cool. You are so good Scary. I have done something 4 u on the 7 day and 7 night challenge. It was so good but hard. (Year 10 pupil)

Hi Scary. The 7 day challenge is hard but I have opened doors for lots of people. The little kids are still talking about you for being so good. (Year 11 pupil)

The question for us at St Lukes is how we can develop and integrate this work into a sustainable whole school approach. This really is about 'Every Child Matters' We have seen the positive effects on pupils. Next steps are to train some pupil Ambassadors. We hope to have Scary Guy back to help us. His day with us has inspired both staff and pupils to continue this approach and method.

Comment from Deborah Sheppard, Hertfordshire Anti Bullying Initiative

We decided to fund this pilot at St Luke's so that an evaluation could be shared across Hertfordshire. We hope that the comments from staff and pupils at St Luke's will help other schools make an informed choice about whether or not to invest in a visit from Scary Guy.

There are lots of anti bullying resources and speakers available to schools and we feel it is part of our responsibility to review and highlight new and interesting methods to our schools. Scary Guy is very credible to young people, they wouldn't dare snigger at what he says and they really want to buy into his ideas.

Scary Guy did a demonstration and question and answer session at the Hertfordshire Anti Bullying Conference in November 2007. A number of schools and a range of professionals from Youth Justice, the police, Children's Residential Homes etc witnessed the Scary Guy approach. Many were left inspired to book Scary for their own settings.

We thank St Luke's for piloting this work and sharing their findings with other Hertfordshire schools and other settings so that they may benefit from an evaluation within the local context.