

Situation 1

Jenna has always had trouble reading and writing, and last year found out she was dyslexic. This year, she has a learning support assistant to help her in class. She is doing really well, but a lot of girls tease her saying things like she's 'retarded' and 'stupid'. There is one girl called Sian who always makes fun of her- she also encourages the other girls to do the same, or tells them to ignore her. Last Wednesday after English, Sian was really nasty to Jenna and Jenna snapped and pushed Sian to the floor. Jenna then took Sian's ipod and stamped on it. The police were called and Jenna was arrested and has been given a reprimand for this.

Jenna doesn't have that many friends, but her best friends, Josie and Sara spend a lot of time with her and she talks to them about most things. She hasn't told them what is happening, although they both know that something is up- it was so unlike her to do what she did.

- Do you think it was fair for Jenna to receive a reprimand from the police?
- What do you think Jenna should have done?
- What do you think should happen to Sian?
- What could Jenna's friends, Josie and Sara do to help?

Situation 2

Rob had always been seen as a bit of a bully- he's bigger than most people, and always hung around with people who you didn't want to mess around with.

Alex is the opposite. He works hard at school, and is in the top set for most classes. Whenever Rob sees him, he is nasty to him, calling him names, pushing him over and throwing things at him. Normally Alex just ignores this, as he thinks it is just 'part of being in school'. But it does really upset Alex; he thinks that because he is smaller, there is nothing he can do to stop the bullying.

- Is Alex being bullied?
- What do you think Alex could do to stop the bullying?
- What might happen to Alex if he doesn't do anything?
- What do you think might happen to Rob if he gets caught?



Situation 3

Aaron, Mark and Lewis had been mates for years, but things changed when Mark broke up with his girlfriend, Cindy. Lewis, who had always liked her and had been jealous of Mark, started seeing her, and although Mark didn't really mind to start off with, things soon changed. Lewis started spreading lies about Mark, and also saying things like 'Mark won't ever get a proper girlfriend' and 'Cindy was too good for him'.

Mark tried to ignore this but now Lewis has even started posting more lies on the internet and on MSN. Aaron, who is still friends with both, is now stuck between the two and doesn't know what to do. It's now getting to the point where others are joining in and sending Mark abusive emails and messages on MSN.

- What sort of bullying is happening here?
- What can Mark do?
- What do you think will happen if Mark doesn't do anything?
- How should Aaron do to help the situation?

Situation 4

Outside of school, Sam plays guitar in a heavy metal band with some other boys from nearby towns. He really likes this sort of music, and his style of dress reflects that. He also studies really hard in school and hopes to go to university.

Problems seemed to begin after Sam and his friends beat the school sports captain, Luke, and his team at basketball. Initially he started getting anonymous texts from two phone numbers, saying things like that he was a 'dirty greebo', and that he should 'watch his back'. The texts or prank calls then became more regular from four or five numbers, and then things were put up on the internet too. There was also a rumour around the school that a group of boys are on the lookout for boys like Sam and are going 'emo bashing'. Last week, Sam was cornered by Luke and three of his friends in the toilets, and if the head of year, Mr Skinner, hadn't of come in, things could have been much worse.

Sam's mum is very worried about him- he's starting to say he's feeling ill a lot recently, has been caught twice skipping lessons, and his last school report was the worst he had ever got. Sam says it's just because his work is getting harder, but his mum doesn't believe him.

- What sort of bullying is happening here?
- How do you think Sam feels?
- What do you think will happen if Sam doesn't do anything?
- Who could Sam speak to for help?