

Sam's Story Blogs

A Handout Resource for Session Three: Sam's Story

In 2016-17 Sally Holland, The Children's Commissioner for Wales asked young people to send blogs, videos and pictures to describe what can happen when bullying takes place. Sally asked young people to imagine a character called Sam, who was the same age as them and was being bullied, and to describe what happens. More than 2000 young people took part from across Wales. Here are three examples of the blogs and pictures young people sent.



Blog 1: Ben's Diary (abridged)

10/11/2016

Hello, my name is Ben and I am 14 years. I have recently noticed that an old friend has been acting different. Sam, is also 14 years old, we have known each other for years but have drifted apart over the years and have made new and different friends. I am worried about Sam. I have noticed a change in him as he looks seriously sad and depressed.

11/11/2016

I saw Sam again today and I still cannot work out what is wrong, but there is definitely something not right. I watched him on his way to school and between lessons as he walked with a slouched body behind the rest of his friends while they laughed and joked together as he walked joylessly alone. I want to help but don't know how.

12/11/2016

Today, I witnessed something terrible. I now think I have the reason why Sam looks so down and depressed recently. I watched Sam from the distance surrounded by people that I wouldn't normally expect to see him with. I watched them as they hid around the corner after school where they thought they were unnoticeable. They surrounded him intermediately by forming a circle around him with him in the centre, I saw them laugh and point at him as well as kick him to the ground like he was worthless. They called him names and prevented him from walking away, but what surprised me most about these bullies was that they were not the type I would expect, they were girls. I feel so bad for not stepping in but I didn't want to make things worse...

13/11/2016

I couldn't find Sam today which worried me enormously. I found out during maths that he was at home ill. In some ways I was relieved as it meant that Sam didn't need to endure another day of the traumatising bullying which I guarantee was the real reason why he wasn't in school today. When I got home I logged into Facebook and I was shocked by what I could see. The bullies had started to target Sam online. I thought that him not being in school would surely give him peace for one day but instead realised the bullies wouldn't stop and wanted to distress Sam in any way possible. His situation had got worse as more people both girls and boys got involved and made nasty and malicious comments that left me feeling sick.



Blog 2: Sam's Story (abridged)

Hi. I'm Sam. I'm 14 years old and I want to tell you my story...

I've been at the school for 6 months now. Westfield High School. The place where I had once thought everything would be great, everything would be different. I thought I'd make new friends because I was in a place where no one knew me or my story. But I was wrong. After one week at the school I already wanted to leave. People thought they knew me. I was treated like an old dusty book – I was judged before anyone got chance to see what was inside. I was chucked aside like an outcast of their primitive society. I was left to fend for myself surrounded by people who despised and hated me for no good reason.

They sniggered and pointed at my hand me down shoes. They stared at my 'baggy' trousers when I stood in the corner of the food court. They called me names and said I was poor because I lived in a rough part of town. I'd ask myself constantly why I was the one who had to suffer, why I was the one who was always laughed at and teased. It had happened at every other school I'd been to and it had happened again but I just didn't know why.

They didn't know that my Mum was too ill to work and my Dad had to try find a new job. They didn't know that was the reason why I didn't have designer shoes and was why I had second hand uniform. They didn't know that I had been bullied in the last 3 schools I had been too. So why did they judge me? Why were they so cruel? That I'll never know.