

Connect with Kids **Overview and Implementation Guide**

for the
Anti-Bullying Campaign Sponsored by Stafford County Public Schools
Strong Students ~ Safe Schools



Connect with Kids

Welcome to Your Online Resource!

Research and statistics tell us a frightening story about the escalating climate of bullying in schools today. As part of our ongoing commitment to create a secure and healthy learning environment for all of the children and families of Stafford County Public Schools, we want to provide students, educators and community leaders with the tools to combat bullying – and to sustain anti-bullying efforts into future school years.

To that end, through an expansive partnership with W*USA 9 and *Connect with Kids*, we are providing resources to launch a community-wide initiative to help students, educators and parents learn to stand up to bullying. *Connect with Kids* materials have received high marks from schools and groups across the country, and W*USA 9 has been instrumental in bringing this programming to our community with *Connect with Kids* stories in newscasts and through special features.

Founded in 1998, CWK Network produces the Emmy award winning *Connect with Kids* television series, featuring real kids sharing their true stories about today's youth issues. Recently, *Connect with Kids* produced a television program that specifically addresses bullying behaviors. This show, ***Silent Witness***, is available for viewing directly on the website, www.connectwithkids.com/stafford.

The following Implementation Guide is an overview of the *Connect with Kids* bullying resources available to you online as part of this campaign, as well as numerous, effective methods for using these resources at home or within your facility.



Your Resources on the Website Include:

- This Implementation Guide, which provides ideas and suggested activities for using the campaign elements.
- Continuous video streaming of the half-hour television program, *Silent Witness*, which can be used in a number of settings to stimulate discussions with youth, educators and parents.
- Group Discussion and Individual Self-Reflection Questions that coincide with each of the video's five segments.
- Bullying Fact Sheets with the latest information and statistics about physical, verbal and emotional bullying.
- Parent Tip Sheets with expert advice to help parents talk with their children about non-violent methods they can use to stop the bullying and ways they can help them avoid being a target.

Purpose of the Campaign Materials:

- **To create a common conversation about bullying**
- **To provide you with tools to reach and teach youth and families**
- **To facilitate a community dialogue around bullying within our community**
- **To provide resources that reinforce what you're already doing**
- **To help raise awareness about the topic of bullying and mobilize the community to take action**

Using the Half-Hour Television Program

- Invite people from your organization and/or the community to a viewing party to watch ***Silent Witness*** together.
- When viewing the program in a group setting, be sure to take some time following each segment to discuss what you have viewed. Use the discussion and self-reflection questions as well as the Bullying Fact Sheets from the website to make the event a positive and educational experience.
- Assign young people in your organization the task of watching the program with their parents and using the Parent Tip Sheets to elicit meaningful dialogue.
- Allow youth to show the program to friends in their clubs or others whom they know (in classes, youth groups, church groups, etc.).
- Encourage schools in your community to use the video program and correlating resources in health classes or in conflict resolution programs.

Using the Discussion and Self-Reflection Questions

- Print and download the discussion and self-reflection questions by going to “Video” and clicking on each video segment. There you’ll find thought-provoking questions to help parents and kids understand bullying and help them apply the learning to their own lives.
- Train parents and/or youth to become group discussion leaders using the resources on the website.
- Print the discussion questions and self-reflection questions to use as a guide in group sessions. The discussion questions are for a group; the self-reflection questions are for individuals to reflect upon their own personal responses to issues raised in the videos.
- Post the questions on the wall to help people continue to think about bullying and its effects on others and the community.
- Use the questions as part of a homework assignment for youth as they discuss these issues with their parents.

Using the Bullying Fact Sheets

- Review the Fact Sheet prior to a group viewing of ***Silent Witness***. After watching the videos, ask participants to identify additional facts they learned or misconceptions they had prior to viewing the video.
- During a community meeting, have parents and children pair up and quiz each other on the facts. Have one group member report to the rest of the meeting something new that they learned.
- During a parent meeting, instruct parents to take the Fact Sheet home and use it as a starting point for a conversation with their children.

Using the Parent Tip Sheets

- Make copies of the Parent Tip Sheet and distribute it during a parent meeting and/or video viewing. Have the group talk about specific ways they can implement the tips with their children.
- During a parent meeting, use the Tip Sheet as a starting place for discussion and have the group brainstorm additional tips and strategies they can use with their children.
- As a group, review the Tip Sheet prior to watching ***Silent Witness*** and have parents identify scenarios during the video where the Tip Sheet applies.

Using the Community Website

www.connectwithkids.com/stafford

- Instruct parents to go to the website with their children and view ***Silent Witness*** together.
- Ask families to use the discussion questions to begin a dialogue about bullying.
- As a homework assignment, instruct youth to view a streaming video segment online and then provide written responses to the self-reflection questions. Anonymously read the youth responses to the self-reflection questions as a starting point for group discussion.
- Have youth associated with a community program learn how to use the website at an on-site demonstration.
- Download and print any additional materials you may need for your group sessions, meetings, family viewing sessions, etc.
- Use your organization's newsletters, emails, and other communication channels to promote your efforts and the website. You can "review" each news stories or other materials found on the site, and then direct parents, educators, and youth to the website for further exploration.
- Continue to keep parents and students informed about the website for home use or for leading discussions in other settings (religious meetings, civic groups, clubs, and schools), being sure to point out the useful Parent Tip Sheets and Fact Sheets. Show potential meeting facilitators how to access additional materials on the website.
- Start a discussion group for teens, pre-teens, and/or younger children that focuses on bullying by utilizing the online resources and the video. Use the discussion questions and self-reflection questions on the website to help facilitate the sessions.
- Direct educators, community leaders, and parents to sign up for flyers notifying them in advance of shows airing in your community. They can easily do so by following the directions on the first page of the website and supplying their city and state to ensure they receive a schedule for their area only.

The materials and resources on this website will help you support the ***Connect with Kids Anti-Bullying Campaign sponsored by Stafford County Public Schools*** and increase awareness among youth and their parents about this challenging issue.

