

CRESST News

For Heads,
teachers and
support staff

For everyone
interested in
social
transformation

Spring 2008

Conflict Resolution Education in Sheffield Schools Training

**CRESST
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1116794**

East Hill Secondary can be proud of their Peer Mediation Service

writes Suzanne Gross a visitor from Canada

On 22 October 2007, East Hill Secondary School celebrated the successful implementation of a peer mediation scheme in their school of 120 pupils. Peer mediators are trained to help their fellow pupils resolve conflict peacefully.

East Hill Secondary School works with youth with moderate and severe learning difficulties. The school learned about the CRESST training and was very eager to try and address many of the conflicts that arise between students during the day, particularly during the break times and playground activities. According to Melanie Turner, teacher and PSHE coordinator, "Pupils struggle with resolving conflicts and problem solving, but this isn't a reason to give up and not help them learn these important life skills."

Fourteen students graduated from the first program and are now on the rota to deliver peer mediation during outdoor time. There are at least ten more students already volunteering for the next training.

For the past term peer mediators at East Hill have donned their bright red fleece jackets and watched for conflicts they may be able to help resolve. All staff agree that fewer conflicts come to their attention than before. Peer mediators are skilled in successfully resolving conflicts that used to end up in the office of deputy head teacher Clive Rockliff. He is relieved to have to deal with fewer petty conflicts that can easily be resolved by the youth themselves. "The yard seems to be a much calmer place with the introductions of the peer mediators" he is happy to state.



**"They are doing a
great job. I'm so
proud of them"**
Tina Shirazi, mentor

The success of this peer mediation service is due to East Hill's full support for the program, the confidence and pride evident in the peer mediators, and the praise they get for their contribution

CONFLICT: A RISKY BUSINESS!

“Conflict can lead to real human and environmental suffering. In school the amount of time taken away from teaching and learning is significant. Litigation costs the authority thousands of pounds each year. Physical assault on school staff and pupil exclusions are on the increase. Unmanaged conflict is the largest reducible cost in organisations today, and the least recognised. Mediation is an effective process used in conflict resolution. Some schools now have trained staff working as in-house mediators and managers are using mediation techniques to reduce tension in the workplace. Training takes a while but is well worth it.”

Extract from the keynote speech given by Cheryl Smart (CRESST coordinator) at the Risk and Legal Focus Conference, November 2007.

Mediation Training for Staff

*by CRESST (Conflict Resolution Education in Sheffield)
in association with MESH (Mediation Sheffield)*

Suitable for

Senior Management

Teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools,

Teaching Assistants and Learning Mentors

Behaviour Support Staff,

Anyone working in Schools, Colleges or with Youth

This training will enable participants to mediate disputes between students, staff and parent/carers within a school, college or youth project setting.

Enhanced interpersonal skills will contribute greatly to CPD.

Certificates will be awarded on the completion of the training

Training consists of:

- **21 hours of taught time**
- **10 hours of private study**
- **at least 10 hours of case work**

Dates for training sessions:

Thursday 10th, 17th, 24th April 9:15 to 4:15

plus one afternoon tbc

**Venue: Scotia Works, Leadmill Road, Sheffield
(near the station, next to the Leadmill Nightclub)**

Cost: £450

**To book a place: Contact the CRESST office
0114 2412745 admin@cresst.org.uk**



Peer Listeners at Lound Infant School

A group of Year 2 children at Lound Infant School are now trained to support others when they have got a problem. They can now skilfully offer their help by listening to both sides of the problem and work with them to create a solution where everyone feels understood and valued.

“A tall order even for adults so we are especially proud of these youngsters!” says headteacher, Cheryl Barteczko

Staff at Dinnington Comprehensive School treated to a day’s training in conflict resolution.

Senior management were keen to develop a greater awareness of conflict and the skills needed to resolve it. They hoped the training would set a climate where staff could be supportive of the school’s future plans. The conflict resolution programme in the school, partially funded by Neighbourhood Renewal results in the formation of a Peer Mediation Scheme: a first for Rotherham as far as we know. CRESST was invited to deliver training after successfully helping MESH (Mediation Sheffield) end a long running and serious conflict between two pupils and their families.

“A good opportunity to reflect on our practice, some excellent aspects to the day both thought provoking and useful. I personally took away an understanding of how other people are feeling, and how this is key to resolving conflict. Too often we react to another’s behaviour without thinking about the causes.”

Chris Eccles assistant head teacher

CRESST delivers whole staff training days to Secondary Schools and Colleges in association with Jim Welch. An experienced conference facilitator and trainer with Corporate Soul.

Free conference for Peer Mediators and Mentors aged 11 to 18

St Mary’s Community Centre, Bramall Lane, Sheffield

Saturday 15th March 2008

contact Helena at Peerlink for details or to book a place

helena.cullen@leapconfrontingconflict.org.uk

Tel : 020 7561 3714

Calling all secondary schools and youth clubs!

Are you interested in

- educating young people in active citizenship and building self esteem
- helping teenagers choose non-violent solutions to their problems
- helping them say no to bullying and fighting
- giving them alternative role-models

If so you might be interested in **PeaceJam** to find out more look up www.peacejam.org or contact the CRESST office, we can offer information and support

Training Days for the year ahead at Scotia Works

“An Introduction to Conflict Resolution”

This one day course explores the nature of conflict, the key skills of self expression, empathy, cooperation, problem solving and mediation (including peer mediation). For Teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools, Learning Mentors, PSHE/Citizenship co-ordinators, Behaviour Support staff, **all** adults that work with children and young people.

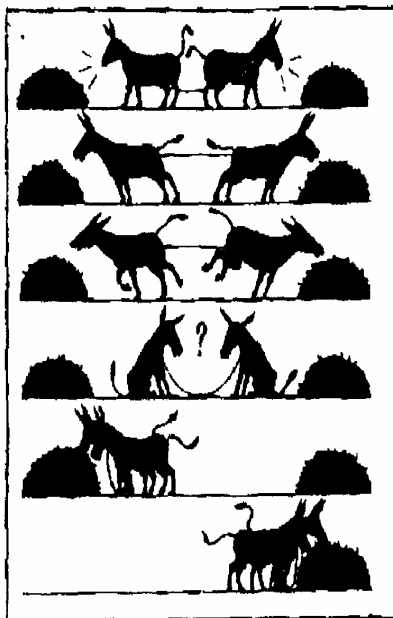
The day will address conflict resolution awareness, develop the skills needed to successfully manage your own conflict and also provide ideas and activities to educate and support young people.

Dates: 4th March or 12th June or 1st Oct 2008

Venue: Scotia Works, Leadmill Road (near the train station)

Cost: £50

To book a place contact the CRESST office 0114 2412745 admin@cresst.org.uk



Tell me a story...

We are giving away full size copies of The Two Mules poster to schools and organisations that send us pictures and information about conflict resolution and peer mediation to go on to our website.

www.cresst.org.uk

Why not get your peer mediators to tell us about their service in their own words?

Send us photographs of your peer mediators.

Tell us why your service works.

**Call CRESST for more information
0114 241 2745 or email admin@cresst.org.uk**

Work with us – we are looking for volunteers and freelance trainers.

We are looking for new trustees with experience in finance, education, youth work, fundraising, publicity and networking, charity administration.

We are also looking to increase our use of volunteers and free-lance trainers especially in the Rotherham area.

INTERESTED in either of these areas? For more information contact the CRESST office. 0114 241 2745 admin@cresst.org.uk