Learning objectives

To explain that handling stolen goods is a criminal offence
To discuss the fact that handling stolen goods is not a ‘Victimless’ crime
To look at ways of identifying whether something is stolen
To discuss the best course of action if you are offered goods that you believe to have been stolen

It is important to bring to the students’ attention the fact that a person who receives stolen goods or assists the thief in any way to dispose of the goods is actively encouraging the thief to steal. Of course it is tempting to buy cheap goods that are offered for sale, but they must think about the real price of that bargain. Somebody must have been a victim of crime for those goods to be on offer so cheaply. Perhaps a friend’s grandmother has been mugged, a neighbour has been burgled, or a classmate has had their new mobile phone stolen.

Time for reflection

5 mins: to conclude the lesson

- A lot of people think that it is okay to buy or handle stolen goods, but a person who receives stolen goods or assists the thief in any way to dispose of the goods is actively encouraging them to steal.
- Of course it is tempting to buy cheap goods that are offered for sale, but you must think about the real price of that bargain. You may not be paying much for those goods but the victim did.
- Never buy something if you do not know where it has come from: you may just be another cog in a crime machine.

Exercise 1

5 mins: to discuss questions in pairs
5 mins: class discussion of questions

a) You can be imprisoned for six months and/or receive a fine of up to £5000. The maximum penalty for a person found guilty of handling stolen goods is 14 years imprisonment.

b) Ring the police or Crimestoppers and tell them where, when and by whom the goods were offered.

Exercise 2

19 mins: to write accounts
5 mins to discuss accounts as a class

Encourage students to think back to what they learnt in previous activities.

Useful Websites

- www.bullying.co.uk
- www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- www.immobilise.com
- www.missdorothy.com
- www.outofyourhands.com
- www.rizer.co.uk
- www.suzylamplugh.org
- www.victimsupport.org.uk

Assembly plan: SAFE

Learning objectives

To explain the definition of robbery
To promote awareness of personal safety
To make the assembly aware of Crimestoppers and other support networks available to them

Whilst the lesson pack has been developed specifically for Key stage 3, the assembly is suitable for addressing all year groups.

Preparation and Materials:

Download the assembly visuals from www.crimestoppers-uk.org/solving/safe for use on Powerpoint, or photocopy the enclosed visuals master-sheet on to a transparency for use on an OHP.

You might also like to write out the definition of robbery (see next page) on a transparency to be used as a visual aid.

If you have any related resources available you could use them to supplement the suggested exercise. For example:

- ‘Watch Over Me’ is a personal safety film created by missdorothy.com in association with Milly’s Fund. All schools should have already received a free copy of the video.
- If you do not already have a copy you can obtain one at www.millysfund.org.uk
- ‘Watch Over Me 2’ was launched on 6 December 2004 and all schools will again receive a free copy during December.

Your local police force may also have a relevant resource.

It is recommended that you invite an officer from your local police force to co-present the assembly or just to be on hand to answer any questions.

Possible extension exercise:

For added impact, if you have a group of students who would be comfortable with performing in front of their peers, you might like to use the storyboard to create a script that they could enact during the assembly.
Assembly:
1) Ask students if they think they know what robbery is. Pick a couple of those who raise their hands and ask them for their definition.
2) Explain to them that robbery is using, or threatening to use, force to steal.
3) Ask the students to look at the storyboard on the OHP/Powerpoint. Explain that the storyboard shows a real life robbery. Talk them through frames 1-6 of the storyboard using the teacher information in the table below.
4) Explain to the assembly that although it is not Nathan’s fault that he was the victim of a robbery, there are things he could have done to make himself safer.
5) Ask the students if they can think of ways in which Nathan could have made himself safer:
   - he could have stayed with his mates
   - he could have left his phone at home
   - he could have not listened to his MP3 player
   - he could have kept his phone hidden
   - he could have been more aware of his surroundings – using headphones and texting means you don’t know what’s going on around you.
6) Ask the students if they know what Nathan should have done after the robbery happened:
   - Whether you know the person who has attacked you or not, you should go to the police to report the robbery. The police can offer protection and support.
   - You should also report your phone as stolen to your network operator and get it blocked.
7) Ask the students to return their attention to the storyboard on the OHP/Powerpoint to see the consequences of Nathan’s experience. Talk them through the continuing frames 7-9.
8) Explain to the students that although Nathan reported Max and got Max arrested he may still feel angry or confused or humiliated about the robbery.
9) Ask the students if they can think of somebody Nathan could talk to:
   - a family member
   - a teacher
   - a trusted adult
   - Victim Support:
     - www.victimsupport.org.uk
   - Safer Schools Partnership officer.

Time for reflection
Ask the assembly to reflect upon the following:
   - You can be the victim of a robbery anytime and anywhere.
   - The person who steals from you can be a complete stranger, an acquaintance or even a friend.
   - There are lots of things you can do to make sure that it doesn’t happen to you: prevention is better than cure; keep it safe, keep it hidden and keep yourself safe by being aware.
   - If something does happen to you make sure you tell somebody. Remember there are always people out there who can help you.

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Frame | Teacher information
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1 | Nathan is 14 years old. One Tuesday a couple of months ago he left the school grounds with his mates. They were all going to get the bus home but Nathan decided to walk home instead so that he could save his bus fare to buy a magazine.
2 | As he was walking he put his MP3 headphones on and began texting one of his mates. Somebody saw Nathan with his headphones in and mobile on display. Texting while you walk is like advertising your phone to thieves.
3 | Nathan was enjoying his music and looking at his phone and he was oblivious to the fact he was being followed. Suddenly, the person who had been following him knocked Nathan down and pinned him to the floor. Nathan was shocked. His MP3 player fell out of his pocket and smashed on the floor.
4 | Nathan struggled. He saw his attacker’s face, and recognised him! It was Max, one of the kids who had left his school the previous year. Nathan knew Max had been in some trouble in the past.
5 | Max was much stronger than Nathan and managed to pin him down again. He yelled ‘give me your phone’. Nathan didn’t want to get beaten up, and so he handed his phone over.
6 | Max jumped up and ran off, leaving Nathan lying on the floor.
7 | Nathan felt angry and embarrassed and stupid, all at the same time. He decided he wasn’t going to let Max get away with doing this to him, and so he did the right thing and called the police.
8 | What Nathan didn’t know at the time was that somebody else had witnessed what happened, but because they wanted to stay anonymous, they called Crimestoppers to report what they had seen. Crimestoppers run a phone line on which people can give information about a crime or criminal activity completely anonymously. No call to Crimestoppers will be traced or recorded and the caller will not be asked to go to court to give evidence.
9 | Because both Nathan and the witness came forward to the Police and to Crimestoppers, Max ended up getting arrested. He has now got a criminal record which will stay with him for life.